ECO-FRIENDLY STYLE ON TIGHT BUDGET, PG 14

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TORONTO • MONDAY JANUARY 5 2009 metron

Entertainment

Travolta opens up about son's death
pg 18

Prairies walloped by winter

WEATHER A fierce blast of snow and cold was making its way east into Manitoba yesterday after triggering record low wind chills of -50 C and colder in neighbouring Saskatchewan overnight. Wind chill warnings were in effect in both provinces throughout the day, prompting warnings from Environment Canada that exposed skin would freeze in less than 10 minutes. Residents of Saskatoon woke up to the coldest temperatures since 1966, with a wind chill of -45 C, leaving the city shrouded in ice fog. The actual temperature in Saskatoon at mid-morning was -39 C. Environment Canada lists the record low temperature on Jan. 4 as -40 C in 1966. Regina and other areas of southern Saskatchewan were still digging out from up to 25 centimetres of snow that began Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada pg 6

Avalanche victims mourned

College 2009 pg 17

All forensics, no CSI effect

Sports pg 13

Raptors win 2nd straight

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ELIYAHU BEN IGAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Explosions from Israeli fire are seen over the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. Thousands of Israeli troops backed by tanks and helicopter gunships pushed deeper into Gaza yesterday, fighting militants at close range and surrounding the coastal territory's largest city.

Israeli ground attack leaves dozens dead

Gaza will be your graveyard: Hamas to troops

Thousands of Israeli troops backed by tanks and helicopter gunships surrounded Gaza's largest city and fought militants at close range yesterday, the first full day of an overwhelming ground offensive in the coastal territory.

Israel said it has inflicted a heavy blow against Hamas as it expands a weeklong offensive meant to stop rocket fire on southern Israel.

But spiralling civilian casualties among Palestinians fuelled an international outcry, even as the U.S. blocked approval of a UN Security Council statement Saturday night calling for an immediate ceasefire.

UN chief Ban Ki-Moon says he will meet today with Arab ministers to press for a resolution demanding an immediate end to the violence.

Israel's ground forces moved in after nightfall Saturday following hours of intense, fiery artillery shelling to clear the way, and Hamas warned its fighters would turn Gaza into an Israeli "graveyard."

Yesterday, Israeli soldiers fought primarily in open areas in the launching zones used by Gaza's militants to send rockets raining down on Israeli cities. As the troops in three brigade-size formations moved in, residents of those Israeli cities began cautiously emerging from bomb shelters in hopes the rocket fire would taper off.

Israel's military chief said Hamas fighters were trying to draw soldiers deeper into Gaza's sprawling, densely packed urban areas, where the military said militants were shielding themselves behind civilians.

"You entered like rats," Hamas spokesman Ismail Radwan said in a statement on Hamas' Al Aqsa TV. "Gaza will be a graveyard for you, God willing," he said.

Israeli forces have not yet entered urban areas, said Brig.-Gen. Avi Benayahu, the chief army spokesman.

He warned, however, that the operation was not a "school trip" and would be long and demanding.

Since the ground assault began, 64 Palestinian civilians have been killed, said Dr. Moaiya Hassanain, a Health Ministry official. Five Israelis have been killed since the offensive began.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PG 3, 9

Response from around the world

- "The violence has to stop," said EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner.
- U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney said Israel "didn't seek clearance or approval from us" before pushing into Gaza.
- Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said in a statement, "Canada is deeply concerned about the increase in hostilities between Israel and Hamas."

New test identifies 'rogue' stem cells

Scientists at McMaster University have found a way to tell the difference between normal stem cells and cancer stem cells, a discovery that removes one of the hurdles to the long-awaited promise of using human embryonic stem cells for personalized organ and tissue transplantation.

The study, published yesterday, sets out a list of criteria that scientists can use to differentiate between normal stem cells and cancer stem cells, a subset of rogue cancer cells that many scientists believe drive the growth of malignant tumours. The finding will also help in the search for new, more targeted cancer drugs.

Many of the properties of a healthy human stem cell are also the same properties of a cancer stem cell — both grow quickly, have the ability to self-renew and make copies of themselves, and they often express the same genetic markers, said Mick Bhatia, the study's lead author and scientific director of the McMaster Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

"What we demonstrate is that there is, in fact, a very grey line between a great stem cell and a cell that tips over into becoming a cancer stem cell," he said.

There are lines of human embryonic stem cells in labs right now that, before this test, would be considered healthy stem cells, said Bhatia. But the test shows, in fact, that many of them are cancer stem cells.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Funding

- The study, published in the journal Nature Biotechnology, was funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research, the Canadian Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Toronto 1 Concorde Gate, Suite 703, Toronto, Ontario M3C 3N6. Publisher: Bill McDonald

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Shooting victim still fighting for his life
A man who was shot in the head Jan. 1 is still fighting for his life in hospital. A fight broke out at the Paradise Sports Bar & Billiards at Danforth and Donlands avenues around 3:30 a.m. and as many as four shots were fired. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Reward offered for missing woman

Friends and family of a Toronto woman who disappeared in Hong Kong are offering an $8,000 reward for information on her whereabouts and have set up a website, www.find-ani.com, dedicated to tracking her down. Ani Ashekian, 30, started her trip Oct. 25 when she flew to Beijing with two friends. While her friends returned to Canada, she continued on to Hong Kong and planned to travel to India before flying home Dec. 15. She was last seen in Hong Kong Nov. 10. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Health
Sex columnist Josey Vogels brings her unabashed wisdom to the pages of Metro

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video U.S. President George W. Bush's greatest verbal hits at **metronews.ca/world**

Video The conflict in Gaza spills onto Canadian streets at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, Jan.2 — Lotto Super 7: 4, 13, 19, 30, 32, 35, 38. Bonus: 16. **Saturday, Jan. 3 — Lotto 6-49:** 4, 13, 17, 25, 36, 48. Bonus: 28. **Sunday, Jan. 4— Ontario Pick 3:** 0 2 2; **Ontario Pick 4** : 9 2 6 1; **Encore:** 8628499; **Daily Keno:** 1, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 25, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, 48, 49, 53, 66, 69. These results are not official.

News in brief

STABBING Police are looking for a teenage boy suspected of stabbing a man with a pair of scissors Saturday. The two got into a fight at a party at an apartment building on Lolita Gardens, in the Cawthra Road and Dundas Street East in Mississauga, around 10:30 p.m. The victim, who was stabbed four times, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gaza divides more than states

As the death toll in Gaza continues to rise so do tensions in the GTA — between protesters on the streets, between people trying to work together on interfaith projects and, some say, between Muslims and Muslims, Jews and Jews.

The Canadian Jewish Congress works on building relationships across faiths and supported a November project that paired four GTA synagogues with four mosques, giving Muslims and Jewish worshippers a chance to host one other.

CEO Bernie Farber says when troubles flare in the Middle East it makes it more difficult to engage across religious lines — "but we have always re-engaged," he said.

"Without question these kinds of terrible things that occur will have an impact," he said. "But I don't think it has a lasting impact."

> **"You lose friends during the course of this."**
> Tarek Fatah, Muslim Canadian Congress

Even within Canadian Muslim and Jewish communities, the current conflict may widen the gap between moderate and extreme, some say.

"I'm very depressed because my positions, my feelings, would not satisfy any of the parties, and you lose friends during the course of this," said Tarek Fatah, founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress.

Fatah calls himself pro-Palestinian and believes that, despite setbacks, Israelis and Palestinians are on the right track toward a two-state solution. He said Hamas is responsible for much of the tragedy that has befallen the Palestinians. Judy Rebick, an activist and writer raised Jewish, participated in the pro-Palestinian rally on Saturday and said she noticed members of the Jewish community there, some of them hoping for anonymity to avoid conflict with friends and family.

"It's become very much if you don't support Israel then you're not a welcome member of the community," said Rebick.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Five-year-old Eric Wang helps volunteer Angela Matich mix paint at Michael's Meats and Deli as they work on the store to give it a complete makeover, which has been renamed The Plank Road Market.

Danforth area working to rebrand itself

COMMUNITY A closed sign hung outside Michael's Meat and Deli on the Danforth yesterday. But inside bright lights were on, music played and almost a dozen people, dressed in overalls, worked through the day to give the store a complete makeover.

Some painted the walls — changing a dowdy grey to an inviting peach — others moved wood cabinets to make the store look spacious and yet others mopped the tiled floor.

The project is the first time Danforth East residents have taken gentrification into their own hands. They've teamed up with a store owner to renovate and rebrand the business — in the process also overhauling the neighbourhood.

Usually, local business improvement groups do storefront improvement projects using city money. In this case, the year-old business group did not qualify for help, so residents initiated the project.

The idea was floated a few months ago after members heard about Parkdale stores undergoing similar renovations.

"They got money from the city, but we couldn't so we decided to pull together resources and help a store (that) wanted a new look," said an excited Ellen Long, who lives in the neighbourhood.

The result will be unveiled today: As well as a new look, the deli has been renamed The Plank Road Market in honour of the company that built the area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Video shows suspects of first '09 killing

CRIME Seconds before Johnny Gewarges Youkhana became Toronto's first murder victim of 2009, three men — one brazenly holding a handgun — were seen following the victim as he exited the lobby of a massage parlour in the city's north end, security footage shows.

Youkhana was found dead with gunshot wounds in front of the two-level strip plaza on Milvan Drive, just north of Finch Avenue West, at around 3:15 a.m. Saturday. The footage, which police showed at yesterday's press conference, was recorded by security cameras inside and outside the massage parlour.

SUV

- Cameras also recorded the three men driving away in a silver SUV.

One of the followers is believed to be of East Indian descent, between the ages of 18 and 25, and is between 5-foot-8 and 6-foot tall. The second follower is described as Asian, around 5-foot-8, with a slim build.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges laid after armoured truck robbery

Three men face charges after an armoured car was robbed at noon last Wednesday near Eglinton Avenue East and Mt. Pleasant Road in Toronto. Charged are Chris Sidoro, 24, John Sidoro, 26 and Matthew Manalo, 21, all of Mississauga. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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York remains in talks

York University and the union representing its striking workers have still not reached an agreement, but it's a good sign that talks haven't broken down, said a union member.

"Talks are still going on — that's a very good thing," said Christina Rousseau, chair of CUPE 3903.

University officials and union representatives will resume bargaining today after negotiations ended late last night. The two sides have been working with a mediator since Saturday.

The strike has shut down campus since Nov. 6, when 3,400 teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants walked off the job. This is the third attempt at reaching an agreement.

Workers are demanding better job security, benefits, wages and a two-year contract that will expire at the same time as other Ontario university unions, giving the Canadian Union of Public Employees more province-wide bargaining clout. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Job security

- Job security is a big point of contention for the York workers. They are asking for special contract which gives members five years instead of the eight months they have now. A York spokesperson was not available for comment.

News in brief

STABBING A woman is in hospital after being slashed in the head several times with a knife near Finch Ave. W. and Weston Rd. around 4 p.m. yesterday. Police say that the woman is now in stable condition.

ROBBERY A butcher's shop at Eglinton Ave. W. and Dufferin St. was robbed of tools, a cash register, a laptop and various meat products on New Year's Eve.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investigation launched after officer dragged by fleeing car

CHASE The Special Investigations Unit is probing an incident in which a 42-year-old man suffered a broken leg while fleeing police in an allegedly stolen car.

A police officer in a cruiser spotted the car driving south on Yonge St. around 7:30 p.m. Saturday and gave chase, following the car after it turned onto Dundas St. W. Near University Ave., the officer jumped out and approached the car, which had become bogged down in traffic. He grabbed hold of the car and was likely dragged a short distance as the car sped away. The chase ended near Queen St., when the man lost control and slammed into a concrete flowerpot.

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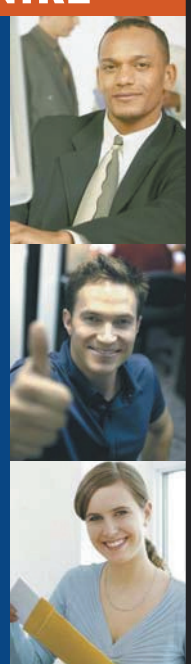

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Woman charged in hotel fire

A 25-year-old woman from Gatineau has been arrested and charged in connection with a deliberately set fire at a downtown Ottawa hotel on New Year's Day. Three people remain in hospital as a result of injuries sustained in the fire at the Radisson Hotel. **METRO CANADA**

Canada

Deaths were suicide pact?

A suicide pact between a Quebec couple was at the root of a family tragedy that left the husband and their three children dead and the wife facing three counts of first-degree murder, police said Saturday. The woman, only identified as the 36-year-old mother of the Lalib-erte clan, was recovering in hospital with an unspecified injury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fantino battle back in court

HEARING Accusations of high-level political interference, petty vindictiveness and tarnished reputations will be on public display this week as Ontario's top cop heads to court Thursday to force an adjudicator he accuses of bias to step down from a police disciplinary hearing.

Court files and hearing documents show the case that has entangled Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Julian Fantino all began when Susan Cole called 9-1-1 in April 2004. She said her estranged husband, provincial police Const. Robert Alaire, had taken a baseball bat to her car. Cole complained after officers responding to the call asked her to leave her home but did not arrest Alaire. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Thousands attend memorial

"Here's to the boys." Two-thousand mourners shouted out that phrase in unison yesterday in a vocal tribute to eight snowmobilers who were swept to their deaths in a string of avalanches a week earlier.

To the strains of bagpipers mourners filed in to the local hockey arena, in Sparwood, B.C., where the photos of the eight men stood on a makeshift stage.

Through the tears, a celebration of the lives and the passions of the men came shining through. Smiling pictures of Daniel Bjarnson, 28, Kurt Kabel, 28, Warren Rothel, 33, Kane Rusnak, 30, Thomas Talarico, 32, Blayne Wilson, 26, Michael Stier, 20, and Michael's 45-year-old father, Leonard Stier, lined the back of the podium.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A mourner attends a memorial in Sparwood, B.C., yesterday for the eight snowmobilers killed in a series of avalanches.

Brand new Arctic Cat snowmobiles were proudly displayed on each end of the podium as the community embraced the fact snowmobiling was a passion for the men, who died after a series of fearsome snowslides in a mountainous backcountry area named Harvey Valley.

A group of 11 snowmobilers was hit by repeated slides up to five metres in height that came thundering down the slope at 150 kilometres per hour.

Jeff Adams, James Drake and Jeremy Rusnak made it out to safety after digging themselves and each other out of the hard-packed snow, sometimes with just bare hands.

Officials had predicted up to 7,000 people would attend the memorial but the turnout appeared to be significantly smaller, likely due to poor weather in the area. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Dementia hits younger

Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are typically seen as afflicting the elderly, but new data suggest an increasing number of baby boomers are also being struck by the brain-destroying diseases.

Of the half-million Canadians affected by various forms of dementia, about 71,000 — or almost 15 per cent — are under age 65, says a study by the Alzheimer Society of Canada. Of those, about 50,000 are 59 or younger.

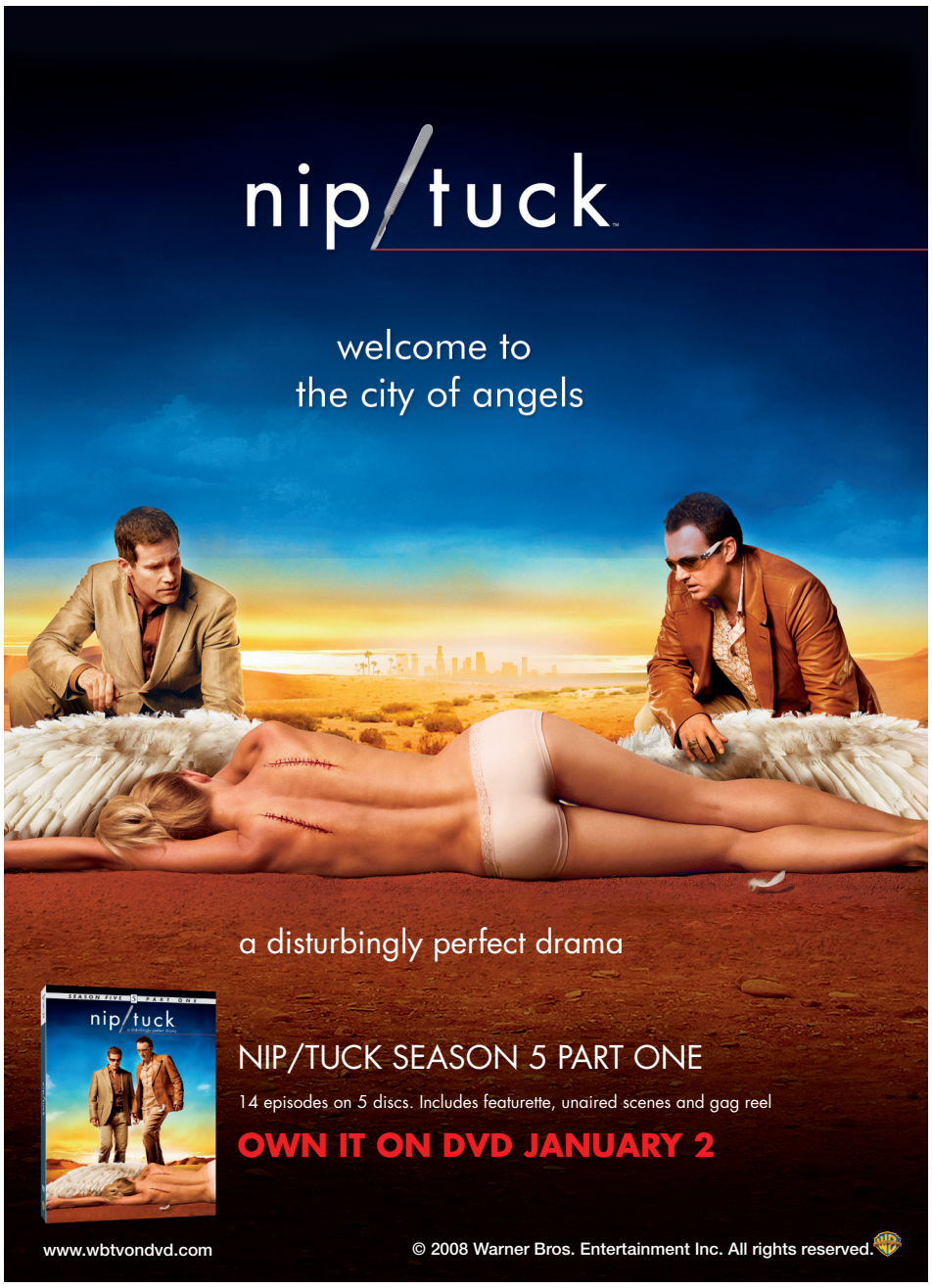
The rising tide of cases among these not-quite seniors as well as their older counterparts is poised to swamp the health-care system and severely affect the economy, warns society CEO Scott Dudgeon.

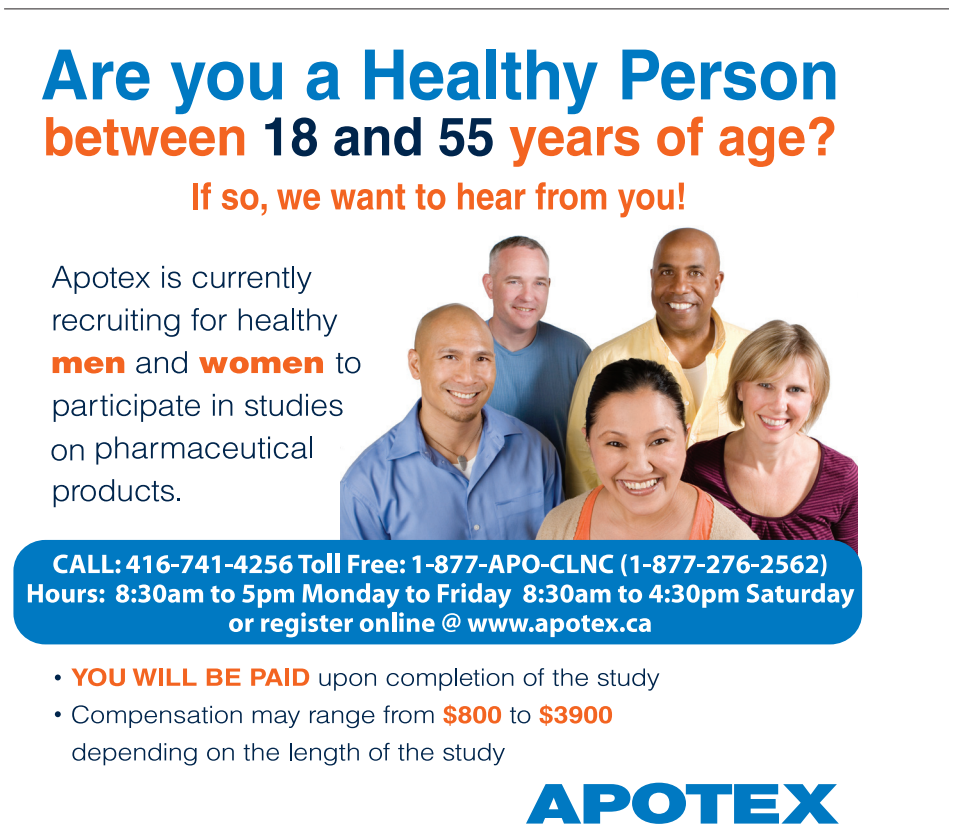
With Canada's aging population, the society predicts that within five years, 250,000 more people could be diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another dementia. By 2040, that could swell to between one million and 1.3 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cost

- The study also set out to evaluate what impact the growing number of dementia cases will have on Canada's economy.





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Record wind chill in Saskatoon
Residents of Saskatoon woke up yesterday to the coldest temperatures since 1966, with a wind chill of -45 C, leaving the city shrouded in ice fog. The actual temperature in Saskatoon at mid-morning was -39 C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Big Brother’ watches students

Surveillance cameras are gradually making their way onto school buses with education and transport officials defending the equipment as a good deterrent to rowdy behaviour and bullying.

But some privacy experts say the cameras don’t always discourage misbehaving and represent a possible invasion of student privacy.

Across the country, some school divisions have been using such technology for up to 15 years.

Dave Carroll, a safety and legislation consultant for the Ontario School Bus Association, says there are 18,000 school buses in Ontario and the practice of using cameras is not widespread. But there are boards that use them to discourage rowdy behaviour by students.

“To my knowledge, the board would decide to install cameras not so much to monitor drivers, but to monitor student behaviour so that the kids would be more inclined to act responsibly,” Carroll said.

“The board would decide to install cameras not so much to monitor drivers, but to monitor student behaviour.”
Dave Carroll

Some school districts place phoney cameras with a glowing red light on buses to fool students, he said.

“It’s a less expensive way to equip the fleet, and then they move the real cameras from bus-to-bus so the kids never know if they’ve got an active camera or not.”

Brian Edy, a Calgary lawyer and former president of the Alberta Civil Liberties Association, said there are always privacy concerns when people are being filmed without their consent. Edy said parents may be concerned about how widely the tape could be viewed, and who could look at it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEW TRIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

STARTING MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009, THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME GO TRAIN AND BUS SERVICES.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST
GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICES

A new weekday westbound train trip will depart Union Station at 3:15 p.m., run express to Clarkson arriving at 3:36, then serve Oakville at 3:44, Bronte at 3:50, Appleby at 3:56, and Burlington at 4:03 p.m.

A connecting bus trip will depart Burlington at 4:08 p.m., serve Aldershot at 4:18, Main and Longwood at 4:28, and Hamilton GO Centre at 4:38 p.m.

The weekday 7:58 a.m. eastbound train from Oakville will now originate at Aldershot departing at 7:32 a.m., then serve Burlington at 7:38, Appleby at 7:45, Bronte at 7:51, and run express from Oakville arriving at Union Station at 8:25 a.m. This train will now have 12 coaches to help meet increased passenger demand.

The weekday 3:54 p.m. eastbound train from Aldershot will now depart at 4:08 and arrive at Union Station at 5:12 p.m. Times will be 14 minutes later at all stops along the route and on connecting bus trips.

93 – DURHAM COLLEGE/UOIT
GO BUS SERVICE

A new weekday eastbound trip will depart Scarborough Town Centre at 9:40 a.m. and arrive at Durham College at 10:20 a.m.

09 – LAKESHORE EAST
GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICES

A new weekday eastbound train trip will depart Union Station at 5:10 p.m., run express to Pickering arriving at 5:35, then serve Ajax at 5:40, Whitby at 5:48 and Oshawa at 5:55 p.m. Connecting bus trips to Bowmanville and Newcastle are available.

The weekday 5:13 p.m. eastbound train from Union will now depart at 5:20 p.m. and times will be 7 minutes later at all stops along the route.

A new weekday eastbound bus trip will depart Oshawa GO Station at 6:19 p.m., make all regular stops, and arrive in Newcastle at 7:13 p.m.

20 – MILTON – BRONTE
GO BUS SERVICE

The weekday southbound trip that departs Milton GO Station at 3:30 p.m. will now depart at 3:45 to connect with the adjusted eastbound train departing Bronte at 4:25 p.m.

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Delay nearly sank deal to acquire art

RARE A deal to repatriate a huge collection of rare Canadian art from England nearly fell apart as the family grew frustrated with the slow response of officials in Ottawa.

In the end, the acquisition of the Peter Winkworth collection by the federal government took so long that taxpayers wound up paying $500,000 more than the original asking price, newly disclosed documents show.

The 1,200 pieces in the collection, acquired for $4.5 million last year, were meticulously amassed by Winkworth, a former Montrealer who died in London in 2005 at age 76.

The material includes watercolours, paintings, prints, maps, powder horns, a sundial and other visual depictions of early Canada, all assembled lovingly over a lifetime.

Winkworth’s family offered the entire collection to Library and Archives Canada in June 2007 for $4 million. But officials were so slow to respond that eight months later the family was preparing to break up the collection and offer the items up for auction. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Listeriosis probe still without investigator

TAINTED MEAT The Harper government has not yet named the leader of a promised probe into the listeriosis outbreak that killed 20 people — a lag critics say discredits an already suspect process.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the “arm’s-length” investigation last September, four days before forcing an early federal election. But he stopped short of calling a full judicial inquiry as the tainted cold-cuts death toll climbed.

Deadly

- Twenty people died after eating Maple Leaf luncheon meats laced with the bacterium that causes listeriosis, a grave threat to the elderly, pregnant women and those with fragile immune systems.

The outbreak came as the government was preparing to hand the industry more responsibility for meat inspection.

Harper promised “an arm’s-length investigation to make sure we get to the bottom, on the government side, on the bureaucratic side, of exactly what transpired and to make sure as we go forward and we make changes to our system that this kind of thing can’t happen again.”

An independent report was to be finished by March 15. But with less than three months to go, a senior government source confirms there’s still no lead investigator. The delay raises fresh concerns among food-safety watchers, who doubt Conservative commitment to overhauling what they say is a chronically short-staffed inspection system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Thai nightclub owner to face charges
The owner of a Thai nightclub where at least 62 revellers perished in a New Year's Eve fire will face criminal charges over the blaze, which was likely sparked by a countdown fireworks display on the stage of the jammed nightspot, police said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

U.S. marines eye better armour

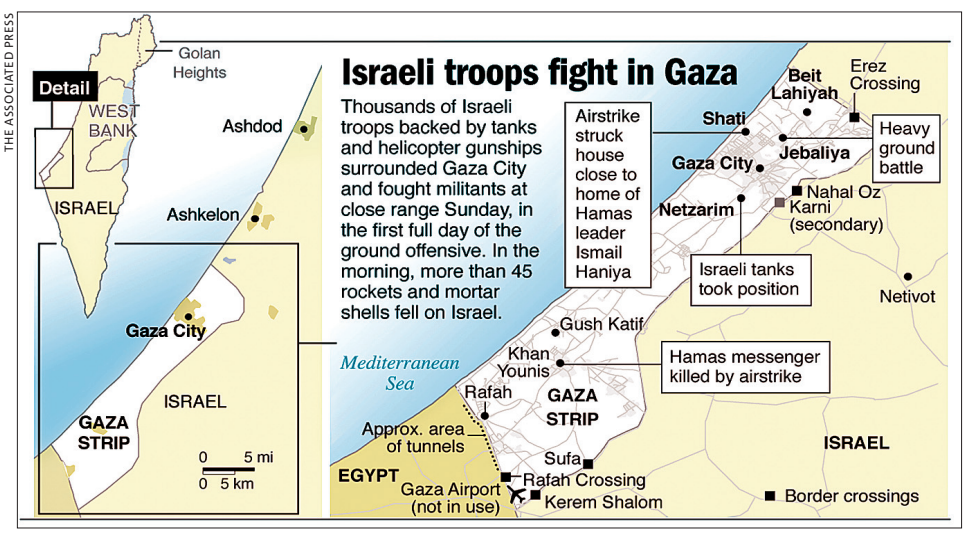
Acting on widespread complaints from its troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Marine Corps has ordered major modifications to its body armour to improve comfort, mobility and safety. Many of them reported that their flak jackets, which cost the Marine Corps more than $100 million, were too heavy and restrictive. A Marine Corps official says the Corps is developing an Improved Modular Tactical Vest to address the problem areas uncovered by survey results. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airport a concern: Expert

Israel's underlying motivation for going to war in Gaza is to protect some of its most important defence installations and only international airport from Hamas rockets, says a leading Israeli expert on military strategy.

"It's only a matter of a year or two before Hamas threatens Ben-Gurion, the only international airport Israel has," said Hillel Frisch, senior research fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv. "The moment any missile flies within 10 kilometres of that airport, no foreign airline will fly that route. Israel cannot survive without an international airport."

In the past week, Palestinian militants in Gaza have been firing longer-range Grad-type missiles at targets in Israel, scoring numerous hits on towns like Beersheba, 40 kilometres from Israel's border with Gaza — or roughly two-thirds the distance from Gaza to the Ben-Gurion airport. The airport is located 20 kilometres southeast of Tel Aviv.



The above graphic shows the major events of the first full day of the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

"There was no way that Israel could allow this to continue," said Frisch. "It just can't be. It's either us or them."

Frisch said Hamas' rocket capabilities will soon threaten "the most crucial installations of Israeli defence" if they don't do so already.

"They figured it out, for sure," he said. "It's really serious." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quakes kill four in Indonesia

A series of powerful earthquakes at dawn yesterday killed at least four people and injured dozens more in remote eastern Indonesia, cutting power lines and destroying buildings.

One of the quakes — a 7.3-magnitude tremor — sent small tsunamis into Japan's southeastern coast, but there were no reports of damage there and no tsunami in Indonesia's impoverished Papua area.

The first 7.6-magnitude quake struck at 4:43 a.m. local time on land about 135 kilometres from Manokwari, Papua, at a depth of 35 kilometres, the U.S. Geological Agency said. It was followed by 10 aftershocks.

At least four people died in Papua, and the airport runway nearest the epicentre was cracked, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told reporters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

IRAQ Police say a female suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest among a group of pilgrims worshipping at a Shiite shrine in Baghdad, killing at least 30 people.

BRITAIN Prime Minister Gordon Brown says the U.S. has not asked Britain to accept Guantanamo Bay detainees if the camp for terrorist suspects is closed. Brown said yesterday that Britain supported the closure of Guantanamo.

OLDEST A Portuguese woman who lived to see five of her great-great grandchildren born and was believed to have been the world's oldest person died Friday at the age of 115, officials said. Maria de Jesus died in an ambulance near the central Portuguese town of Tomar, town council officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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German residents evacuated over unexploded WWII bombs

Experts have disposed of four unexploded World War II bombs in a western German city in an operation that prompted authorities to evacuate some 15,000 residents. The bombs were found near empty houses in Osnabrueck, some of which once accommodated families of British soldiers stationed in Germany. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban's harsh law still prevails

Justice comes swift and severe in the town of Senjaray, Afghanistan. It comes in tarrings and in public humiliation. The guilty are sometimes banished from town, or lose their hands to an axe's blade. Some are executed.

These are not punishments decided by Kandahar's coalition-backed courts. They are meted out by tribunals of roaming Taliban religious leaders who act as judges.

Three Senjaray farmers described to The Canadian Press the murky world of Taliban justice that still prevails in some towns and villages across Afghanistan's troubled south.

The accuser and defendant are brought before several Taliban judges, as more than a dozen armed fighters stand guard. After deliberating, two judges deliver the verdict. Punishment comes within hours or days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stretched thin

- Canada's top diplomat in Kandahar, Elissa Golberg, says that with only six judges to serve the whole province, Kandahar's justice system is stretched thin.

India **Harsh winter taking toll**

ANI I. DAYAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man walks with his yak after fresh snowfall in Kufri in the outskirts of Shimla, India, yesterday. Near-freezing temperatures and fog have killed another 20 people in northern India, raising the death toll to 34 since the start of the new year, a government official said yesterday.

Journalists released in Somalia

Two foreign journalists — a Briton and a Spaniard — were released yesterday after nearly six weeks in captivity in Somalia, officials said.

The journalists, reporter Colin Freeman of the Sunday Telegraph and Spanish freelance photographer Jose Cendon, were working on a piracy story when they were kidnapped Nov. 26.

The Sunday Telegraph's publisher confirmed the two journalists had been freed.

"This is wonderful news and we are delighted that the two journalists will soon be reunited with their families, friends and colleagues," Telegraph Media Group said in a statement in London.

The company would not say whether a ransom had been paid.

In a story published on its website, the newspaper quoted Freeman as saying the pair "are absolutely fine ... We've absolutely no problems at all either physically or mentally."

"We survived on rice, goat meat and Rothmans," Freeman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man detained in Rio swim death

BRAZIL A man suspected of piloting a motorboat that struck and killed a New York winery owner as he swam off Brazil's coast has been detained by police. Seventy-year-old Christian Wolffer, owner of the Wolffer Estate winery, bled to death after suffering two deep cuts on his back, Officials say he was injured while swimming on New Year's Eve near the colonial town of Paraty, about 150 kilometres west of Rio de Janeiro. Police Insp. Marcos Cerqueira says the cuts were caused by the propeller of a passing motorboat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attention TTC Metropass Customers

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Comment & Views

Comment

Resolve to follow this guide

HineSight

Anne Hines

Do make a plan to recycle. For instance, any resolutions you break this year can be used again next year.

It's the first week in January and according to the experts by the end of this week, most of us will break our New Year's resolutions. Personally, I think this sounds unlikely. Most people I know broke them on Jan. 1.

The truth seems to be that breaking NY's resolutions is as big a tradition as making them. Two highly trained Harvard scientists spent three years, thousands of grant dollars and interviewed scores of people studying this problem, finally arriving at the reason that human beings find it so hard to change.

Apparently, we don't want to. You see it pays to consult the experts.

But, for those who are still determined not to break their promises this year I present:

The HineSight Guide To Keeping New Year's Resolutions.

The No. 1, almost failproof method for keeping your resolutions right through to the end of the year is this. Don't make any until 11:59 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Then, increase your success potential by making resolutions like "This year I will wear a silly paper hat and watch television programming involving balls dropping in Times Square."

No. 2 on our list: keep resolutions open-ended. For instance, "lose 10 pounds" leaves very little wiggle room (much like my jeans). Instead, resolve to "eat most responsibly." This allows you to occasionally scarf a pint of ice cream and think "Ah dairy, that's health food."

Similarly, making a resolution like "take up skydiving" may be just setting yourself up for a fall. However, "try something outside my comfort zone" could include anything from attending a family gathering to sampling discount toilet paper.

The No. 3 strategy for keeping your resolutions is to make sure they sound fun.

"This year I will live within my financial means" simply sounds like "There's no big screen TV in your future, honey." Try rephrasing this to "This year I'll play Survivor: City Dwellers edition." Then, when you're foraging for food and sleeping under a viaduct it will seem like an adventure.

No. 4: Know what you're talking about. A friend says she intends to "reduce her environmental footprint" by wearing smaller shoes.

Do make a plan to recycle. For instance, any resolutions you break this year can be used again next year.

Lastly, tell yourself that if you don't keep your resolutions, there's one person to blame. Your mother, boss, ex-boyfriend, you get to pick.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

TTC info at the touch of a cellphone

InTransit

Ed Drass

transit@eddrass.com

If the bus you are waiting for conks out before reaching your stop — how would you find out? This is useful information — especially if the following bus isn't expected for half an hour.

People like to know how long they're going to wait for buses, streetcars or trains — even on frequent routes. Many transit agencies in Ontario already offer phone recordings for specific stops to find out when the next few vehicles are scheduled to arrive.

Now that buses can be tracked easily by satellite, the TTC is ready to revisit a stop-based information service, the last one being shut down at the end of 1999. The 2009 version, to launch later this year according to commission chair Adam Giambrone, involves a simple request via cellphone or similar device. An automatic reply provides the next "real time" arrivals.

Forecasting exactly when a bus, tram or train will show up is not easy, thanks to traffic or other factors. For several years Viva has had "next bus" signs at certain stops in York Region. I'd like to hear from riders about the accuracy of these monitors — tell me via transit@eddrass.com.

Giambrone says cellphone and wireless Internet service is to be extended to the entire TTC subway system in "two to three years," allowing riders to learn surface vehicle status while underground.

For those without mobile phones, new TTC display screens at Spadina and Union subway stations now predict the arrival of streetcars. If you don't trust the computerized predictions, a live map shows each car's progress. Expect glitches but eventually these screens will aid riders at station bus and streetcar bays with simpler versions at the busiest street stops.

The GPS technology that shows where vehicles are should help TTC route supervisors decide which ones to hold back or "short turn" in order to minimize gaps.

As for the subway, riders are finally going to see more next train arrival displays like the ones now in Dundas station. Monitors for subway, bus and streetcar arrivals are expected in all 69 TTC stations by 2010.

* * *

Special note to users of assisted or paratransit services crossing municipal boundaries. Please contact me about a new survey.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

Quick Tip

• Can't wait for the TTC to offer schedule details by mobile phone? Get scheduled stop info on your iPhone or iPod Touch with an unofficial application called "Red Rocket." Also, some TTC delay info can now be accessed via Twitter — see ttcupdates.com. For those of you eager to use a trip planner at ttc.ca, the current arrival time is July 2009. TTC data will also be available publicly for services like Google Transit.

Letters

Toronto should try new idea for keeping city trees

Re: "Tree growth rooted in educated" (Jan. 2).

Here is something I would like to see in Toronto: the Treegator. I've seen them in New York City and Copperstown, N.Y. It is a simple plastic bag that is placed around the foot of a tree. Water is poured into it and is then slowly released into the roots of the tree.

I suspect it is not yet available in Canada, but will be demonstrated at the Landscape Ontario Congress Jan. 6-8 at the Toronto Congress Centre, according to the Treegator website.

I would like to see them tried out here in a few locations as a demonstration project.

For example: the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts has a grand total of 17 trees planted on its sidewalks and I would like to see them thrive.

One reason Toronto is perceived as a charmless, utilitarian city (or downright ugly) is because of our stark main streets. Street trees can thrive in restricted locations (just go to Paris) with the proper (intensive) care.

MICHAEL JOHNSON, TORONTO

CEOs' fat salaries don't match their workload

Re: "Your year's pay a day's work for top CEOs" (Jan. 2).

The fat salaries enjoyed by CEOs is due to sheer greed and selfishness on their part and connivance on the part of our politicians. If not, why are the latter not making any mention of these fat salaries or any attempts to put a stop to this, but are just continuing to give the poor taxpayers' money to resolve problems created by these same CEOs?

What food do these people eat which is extraordinary? Is it not the same small king-size beds they sleep in? Do they not fall sick or die as the poor? Why do they need all this money for if not because of greed? What extraordinary work do they do? It is true they strategize, they make decisions. But what is a good strategy or decision if the subordinates do not implement them? The CEOs should come down. It is just not fair.

BEN POKU, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Chrysler says it's received $4B bridge loan

Chrysler LLC's chief executive Bob Nardelli says the automaker has received an initial $4 billion US loan from the U.S. Treasury Department. Chrysler is nearing the minimum level of cash — $2.5 billion — it needs to operate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Bogus notes on rise: Report

A flood of fake $20 and $100 bills pushed the value of successfully tendered counterfeit bills to at least $5 million by Sept. 30, says a Bank of Canada internal document. That's 50 per cent higher than the $3.3 million worth of counterfeits passed through all of 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Chinese manufacturing shrinks as export demand falls

ECONOMY China's manufacturing shrank for a third month in December as export demand fell, suggesting an economic slump is worsening despite government efforts to shield the country from global turmoil, according to data reported yesterday.

A key indicator, the Purchasing Managers Index, edged up from November's all-time low but stood at 41.2, below the 50 level that shows activity is shrinking, the government-sanctioned China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Close watch on job stats

Key to U.S. economy's health

Investors looking for hints of a bottom to the U.S. recession will be looking out for the latest unemployment numbers coming out at the end of the week.

"It's the most important economic event of the month," said John Johnston, chief strategist for The Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities.

Economists estimate that the U.S. economy shed almost half a million jobs in December alone. And Johnston expects the deep losses to continue into 2009.

"The leading indicators are still showing downward momentum for the next six months in the economy."

Canadian employment data will also be released on Friday. About 71,000 jobs were lost in this country during November and economists expect a decline of about 22,000 during December.

But Johnston noted that the employment numbers in October, when 9,500 jobs were added, were distorted by the large numbers of people hired temporarily for the most recent federal election campaign.

> **"The leading indicators are still showing downward momentum for the next six months in the economy."**
> John Johnston

He points out that Canada, too, is in a recession and "we're due for some quite soft numbers in Canada reflecting this sharp downturn that is spilling over into Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

North's mining downturn temporary, minister says

MINING Ontario's embattled northerners shouldn't lose hope for prosperity amid shutdowns and layoffs in their once-mighty mining industry because there are signs the downturn is temporary, says the minister responsible for the region and its mines.

"There have been a number of companies that have suspended operations, but in each of those cases, they've been very, very clear about the fact that they remain confident in their operations in the province and are going to move forward," Michael Gravelle said.

Base-metal miners were hit hard as credit markets tightened, global demand slumped and prices for everything from zinc and copper to iron ore and aluminum plummeted.

Gravelle said the fact that miners haven't scaled back exploration is a good sign the current pain is temporary. Once commodities prices turn around, the mines have given every indication they will be back up and running, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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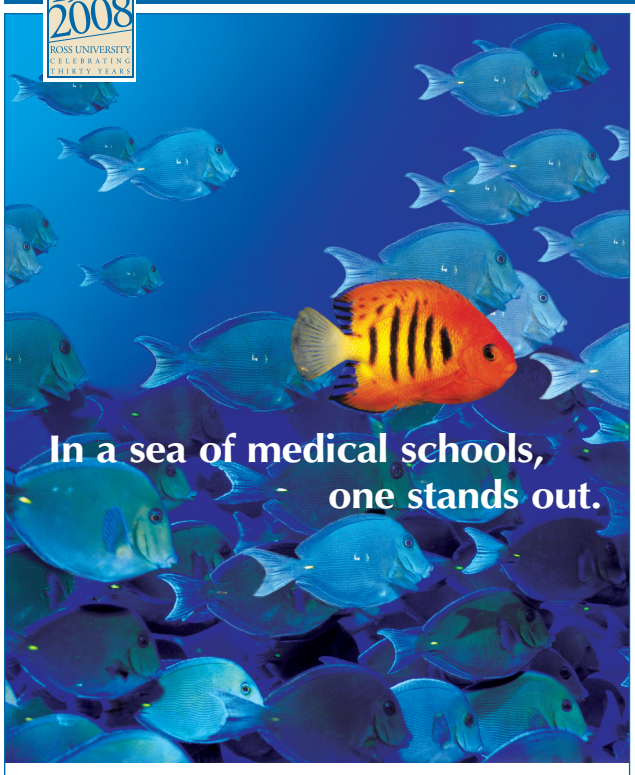

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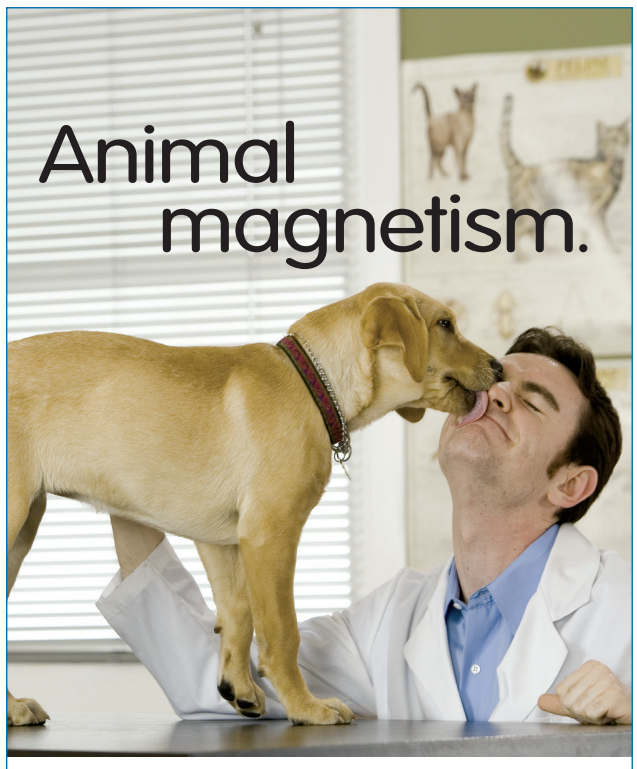

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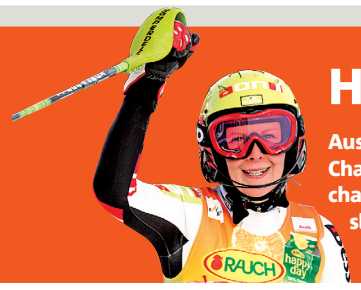
Hockey player's death renews criticism
The death of a 21-year-old hockey player who died three weeks after hitting his head on the ice during a fight has renewed calls for tougher rules governing the use of helmets. Don Sanderson, a defenceman with the senior AAA Whitby Dunlops of the OHA, died Friday in Hamilton. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Hosp to miss world championships

Austrian downhill skier Nicole Hosp, left, will miss next month's Alpine World Ski Championships after injuring her left knee. Hosp, the 2007 giant slalom world champion, tore ligaments after crashing during a warmup run for a World Cup slalom yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Banged up Raps pull out win

NBA RESULT

Magic 102 **Raptors** 108

Chris Bosh says it's way too early to consider this a corner turned for the Toronto Raptors. Ask him perhaps a few games from now.

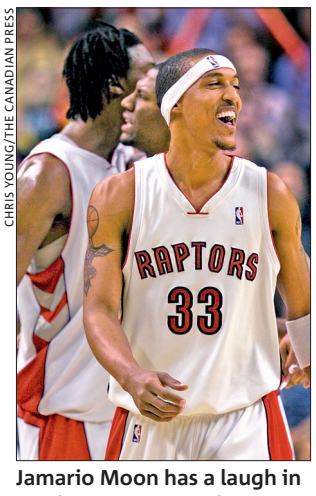
With Anthony Parker leading the way with a season-high 26 points, the undermanned Raptors recorded their second straight victory over a formidable foe, beating the Orlando Magic 108-102 yesterday, the first time Toronto has won two in a row at home since late November.

"I'm greedy, man," Bosh said, when asked if the team has turned a corner. "I want to win all the games. We've been at two wins in a row, we've been at three wins in a row, we have to build on something and make sure we stay consistent, and I think maybe a couple of days from now I'll be able to answer that question."

Bosh finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds, while Andrea Bargnani had 18 points. Roko Ukic had 12 points, while Will Solomon pitched in with 11 for the Raptors, who were playing without starters Jose Calderon and Jermaine O'Neal.

Coming off a resounding victory Friday over the Houston Rockets that snapped a four-game losing streak at the Air Canada Centre, the Raptors led by as many as 16 points in the first half yesterday, and looked poised to put together the beginning of a winning streak.

The Raptors are back in action tonight in Milwaukee (8 p.m., Raptors TV, FAN 590). THE CANADIAN PRESS



CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jamario Moon has a laugh in the fourth quarter of yesterday's 108-102 Raptor win over Orlando.

Stars putting aside distractions

As if having the hopes of a hockey nation pinned on their back as they head into tonight's gold medal game against Sweden isn't enough, two of Canada's top players know they face another considerable distraction: The prospect of being traded.

Centre John Tavares — the most dominant player in the tournament — and his linemate Chris DiDomenico, a Toronto Maple Leafs draft pick, are in all likelihood not returning to their major junior teams.

The rebuilding Oshawa Generals are rumoured to be sending Tavares to either the Windsor Spitfires or the London Knights, while DiDomenico looks as if he's off to the Drummondville Voltageurs after two-and-a-half seasons with the Saint John Sea Dogs.

"I haven't heard anything and they can't announce anything until the tournament's over," DiDomenico said yesterday after practice.

Tavares has handled another potential distraction adeptly: All those questions about any rivalry with Swedish defenceman Victor Hedman over the possibility of being drafted first overall.

While both Tavares and DiDomenico face a change of address for now, tonight's gold medal game at the world junior hockey championship against Sweden offers a life-changing opportunity for all involved.

"Everyone dreams of playing in this type of game and having this opportunity," said Tavares.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

SOCCER Neighbours Liverpool and Everton have been drawn to meet in the fourth round of the FA Cup, and Manchester United will host Tottenham. The draw for the last 32 of soccer's oldest and most famous domestic cup competition was made yesterday and Liverpool and Everton were the first two names out. Liverpool has won the trophy seven times, the last being three seasons ago, and the last of Everton's five triumphs was in 1995.

SOCCER Lei Clijsters, a former Belgium footballer and the father of tennis great Kim Clijsters, died yesterday. He was 52. Reports in Belgium said Clijsters died after a year-long bout with lung cancer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 6 Florida 5 (SO)
New Jersey 4 Ottawa 3 (OT)
Tampa Bay 4 Atlanta 1
Chicago 5 Calgary 2
Minnesota at Colorado
Phoenix at Anaheim
Dallas at Vancouver

Eagles fly past Vikings, Fish squished

NFL PLAYOFFS RECAP

All but forgotten as a postseason contender just one month earlier, Andy Reid, Donovan McNabb and the Philadelphia Eagles have a playoff win. Next up for them: The Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

Brian Westbrook caught a short pass out of the backfield and zigzagged through the Minnesota defence for a devastating 71-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, and the Eagles spoiled the Vikings' first home playoff game in eight years with a 26-14 victory yesterday.

RAVENS 27, DOLPHINS 9

The Baltimore Ravens had Chad Pennington spinning, ducking, on his heels and on his back. When he did manage to get a pass away, they were often there to snatch it. The Ravens came up with four interceptions, including one returned 64 yards for a touchdown by Ed Reed, and won 27-9 to spoil the Miami Dolphins' first playoff game in seven seasons.

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

Channing Crowder of the Miami Dolphins tackles the Ravens' LeRon McClain yesterday.

CHARGERS 23, COLTS 17 (OT)

The San Diego Chargers outdid Peyton Manning for the second straight January, again turning to surprise stars to spark them along in the playoffs.

Given more playing time because of LaDainian Tomlinson's groin injury, Darren Sproles scooted 22 yards for the winning score 6:20 into overtime and the Chargers beat the Colts 23-17 in an AFC Wild Card game Saturday night.

CARDINALS 30, FALCONS 24

The Arizona Cardinals have consecutive home playoff wins — 61 years apart. Kurt Warner opened with a 42-yard touchdown pass to Larry Fitzgerald and connected with Anquan Boldin on a 71-yard scoring play as the Cardinals beat Atlanta 30-24 Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UConn leaves town a winner

JOHN CHICK
john.chick@metronews.ca

NCAA FOOTBALL The University at Buffalo Bulls stayed in the International Bowl for as long as their special teams and defence would allow Saturday, but in the end it was Donald Brown and the University of Connecticut Huskies that ran away with the victory.

Brown rushed for a career-high 261 yards as the Huskies overcame four turnovers — three from UConn fumbles on punt returns — in the first half to hold the Bulls scoreless in the second half and win the game 38-20. Following the game, Brown, who became only the 14th player in NCAA history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season this year, announced his intention to skip his senior year and enter the NFL draft.

For the second time in a month, a Buffalo football team left the Rogers Centre disappointed.

The Bulls were making their first bowl appearance ever after turning down an invite to the 1958 Tangerine Bowl because of that game's segregationist rules. The 1958 team was honoured before the game Saturday.

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Inkjet vs. laser printers

Inkjet printers use up to 95 per cent less energy than laser printers, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Use what you need

Don't fill up your kettle. Only pour in as much water as you need right now. If every Canadian did this, we could save enough electricity to power every street light across the country, according to Change The World for Ten Bucks: 50 Ways To Make A Difference.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Wardrobe bailout

Keep your style fresh, eco-conscious on a small budget

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Your shopping budget has gone the way of your quickly evaporating savings and you're now sinking all your spare cash into that "rainy day" fund. But that doesn't mean your wardrobe has to remain stuck in recession purgatory.

1 Recycle! Most designers look to vintage collections for inspiration these days so rather than splurge on an expensive necklace, handbag or jacket of the season, try combing EBay or your local thrift store for older, second-hand, and less-expensive pieces that inspired these looks.

2 Swap! In New York, they call them "Bitch and Swap" parties. We call them recession wardrobe savers. Plan a gathering with friends in which they bring clothes from their closet they no longer wear (set a high standard though: You want old Marc Jacobs, not worn out Hanes sweats). Pop out a few bottles of wine and some snacks and you've got a fun party and an updated wardrobe.

3 Strategize! Rather than buying expensive designer clothing, spend your money on a nice coat, shoes or bag. These items will last longer and allow you to make a bigger statement than a dress that you might only wear once a month.

4 Minimize! Minimalism is not only a huge fashion trend this season, it's also budget-friendly. It's easy to recreate a chic, pared down look in cheap American Apparel basics than it is to experiment with the season's richer, embellished looks.

5 Personalize! Nothing can be more annoying than someone asking you, "Did you get that from the Gap?" all day long. Give cheap purchases an edge by sewing on patches or appliqués to T-shirts and cardigans or adding clip-ons to ballet slipper flats.

Fair trade

- Host a swap meet with your friends — get everyone to bring over some high-end designs and let the trading wars begin! Remember, no sneaks or sweats: Only the good stuff!

You can help save the environment by making "greener" choices while shopping for groceries.

Make smarter choices at the grocery store

What better place to start saving the environment than at your local grocery store? Making smart choices in the grocery aisles can help reduce your family's environmental footprint.

Here are some simple ways to turn your shopping list green:

Buy local. When food doesn't have to travel far, it requires less packaging materials, fewer preservatives and often fewer pesticides. Not only are these processes bad for the environment but they also take away from the taste of the food. Another benefit to buying locally grown food is the shorter distances the produce needs to travel, which results in less damaging greenhouse gases.

Buy environmentally-friendly products. Many companies are trying to be more environmentally-conscious so look for brands that offer natural products in recycled packages. For example, Green Works is a new line of natural cleaners that can be found at your local grocery store. Information is available online at www.greenworkscleaners.com.

Take fewer trips. Car emissions continue to be a major contributor to greenhouse gases in Canada, making carpooling and fewer trips to the grocery store a must. Making a grocery list in advance can help cut down on trips to the store for one-off forgotten items. Organizing a grocery store carpool with friends or neighbours is also a fun way to spend time with people while reducing the number of cars on the road.

NEWS CANADA

Reusable bags

- Cut down on plastic bags. Canadians use approximately 10 billion plastic bags each year. Reducing that number means bringing reusable grocery bags with you to the store. If you don't already have some, most stores have their own brand of reusable bags you can purchase while you are there. Another alternative is to use cardboard boxes to carry your groceries or paper bags that can be recycled.

Helpful tips to go 'blue'

There's a lot of talk these days about being green or environmentally-conscious — but what about being "blue?" Water is a precious resource, so here are some easy water conservation tips for Canadians:

Stick a brick in it — The back of your toilet that is. Placing a brick, or a jar filled with water, in the back of the toilet will reduce the amount of water needed for each flush.

Shorter showers — How much water do you need to be clean? The average shower uses about 30 litres of water in five minutes, so try to keep your showers short.

Quit the bottle — Disposable water bottles create thousands of tonnes of waste every year. Instead, purchase a reusable water bottle and fill it with filtered tap water. Check out FilterForGood.ca and join other Canadians that have taken a pledge to "quit" bottled water, and start making a difference.

Cold water wash — Washing your clothes in cold water saves energy by not having to heat the water. Purchase an Energy Star certified washer and save water as well.

A cool drink of water — Craving a glass of cold water? Keep a Brita pitcher in your refrigerator rather than running the water until it gets cool.

NEWS CANADA

Ontario may replace tire disposal fee with new levy

RECYCLING A provincial agency is recommending Ontario scrap the $5 per tire "disposal" fee charged to drivers when they get rid of their old tires, and replace it with a levy charged to manufacturers and importers that they could pass on to consumers.

The fees paid by the tire producers would be used to fund the Ontario Tire Stewardship, an industry-administered plan to track, collect, store, transport, process and market scrap tires with a goal of having 95 per cent of them recycled in the province.

Currently, about half of the 12 million used tires generated in Ontario each year are sent to the United States or Quebec to be incinerated.

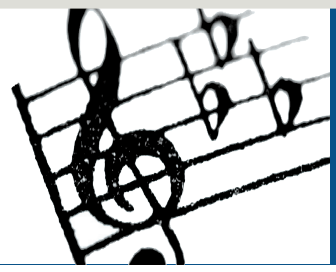
Waste Diversion Ontario predicts that number will grow to 15 million used tires annually by 2014, and has developed a new strategy to deal with the problem.

Millions of tires in Ontario each year are turned into crumbs for rubberized asphalt, become alternatives to aggregate and sand for civil engineering projects, or are made into fabricated products such as hoses used in car engines.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

University of Saskatchewan asks for some dough
The University of Saskatchewan is requesting from the provincial government an 8.3 per cent increase in its operating grant for 2009-10. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology



Laurentian opening
Laurentian University officially opened its new School of Education, which also houses the music department, the School of Rural and Northern Health, and masters program in human kinetics.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Confessions of a Yarn Harlot

OddJobs

Diane Peters

At age four, Stephanie Pearl-McPhee learned how to read. So her grandmother said: "If you can do something as hard as read, you can do something as simple as knit."

So the older woman taught the toddler and Pearl-McPhee, who's now 40, was hooked. "I loved it instantly and completely and I've been knitting ever since."

But the Torontonian never thought she could make a living off her passion. Her grandmother worked as a professional knitter, but it didn't pay well and the practice had fallen out of fashion by the time Pearl-McPhee grew up.

She studied illustration at Ryerson and then worked as a freelance writer. Then she had kids and become a lactation consultant and a doula. She was working in Toronto hospitals with new moms when SARS hit in 2003. Hospitals began limiting access and suddenly she could not see potential clients.

She went to bed one night saying to herself: "Think, think. What are you good at? What can you do?" Her answer: Knitting and writing.

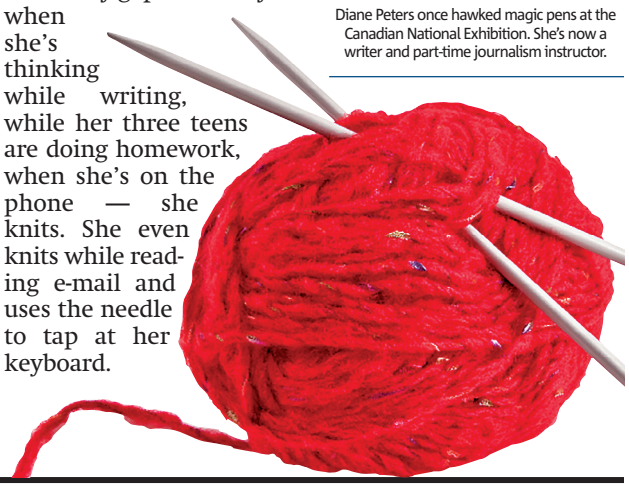
She got up the next morning and wrote to a literary agent. She started writing proposals and in just a few months had two book deals. Both At Knit's End: Meditations for Women Who Knit Too Much and Yarn Harlot: The Secret Life of a Knitter came out in 2005, and she's now published six books. Pearl-McPhee also writes a blog (which won Best Blog from the Canadian Blog Awards in 2008) called Yarn Harlot and does frequent speaking engagements.

Stephanie Pearl-McPhee has six books on knitting published. Go to metronews.ca/work for a link to her blog Yarn Harlot.

"Think, think. What are you good at? What can you do?"
Stephanie Pearl-McPhee before she decided to devote her life to writing and knitting

First thing almost every morning, Pearl-McPhee deals with her considerable e-mail inbox and blogs. She then knits for a few hours ("So I have something to blog about. I sit around knitting, waiting for something funny to happen to me.") In the afternoons, she writes. She spins on Tuesdays (she has a few wheels) and buys wool when she's out at her Wednesday night knitting group and a local yarn shop.

In every gap in her day — when she's thinking while writing, while her three teens are doing homework, when she's on the phone — she knits. She even knits while reading e-mail and uses the needle to tap at her keyboard.



The Lowdown

Job title: Professional knitter/writer about knitting
Salary: What a newspaper writer makes
Education/training: Years of knitting
Best part of the job: "What I used to call play I now call work."
Worst part of the job: "I travel a lot and I wish there was such a thing as teleportation."

Her house is nearly overrun by yarn and ongoing projects.

"Five years ago, that made me messy, now it makes me really focused on my career," she says. She knits so much, she says it's become part of her personality. One of her daughters knits too. The rest of the clan? "I have a very warm family," she says.

"You can pick them out of a crowd, they're the wooly ones."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Royal Roads unveils green plan

Victoria-based Royal Roads University released details of its sustainability plan. Among the initiatives outlined in the plan are halving greenhouse gas emissions from 2007 levels over the next 12 years and adopting alternative energy sources. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New year's job outlook on the grim side: Study

CareerBuilder.com released the results of its latest survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, tracking projected hiring trends for 2009.

The survey was conducted in November and December among 3,259 hiring managers and human resource professionals in private-sector companies.

"The job market of 2008 suffered as the U.S. economy weakened and entered into a recession," said Matt Ferguson, CEO of CareerBuilder.com. "Looking ahead, recruitment levels are expected to be lower in the new year, but employers are not out of the mix completely; instead they're taking 'a wait and see' approach to hiring. Fourteen per cent of employers, surveyed by CareerBuilder.com, state they plan to increase full-time, permanent employees and 16 per cent plan to decrease in 2009. The remainder of employers say they are unsure or don't plan to make any changes to their headcount in the new year."

FULL-TIME

Fourteen per cent of employers plan to increase their number of full-time, permanent employees in 2009, compared to 32 per cent who anticipated increasing headcount in 2008. Sixteen per cent plan to decrease staff levels in 2009 while 56 per cent expect no change. Thirteen per cent are unsure.

PART-TIME

Eight per cent of employers plan to increase their number of part-time employees in 2009, down from 21 per cent who expected to do so in 2008. Fourteen per cent plan to decrease headcount in 2009, 62 per cent expect no change and 15 per cent are unsure.

HIRING BY INDUSTRY

Comparing select industries, job creation in professional and business services and information technology is expected to carry into the new year. Twenty-eight per cent of IT and 23 per cent of professional and business services employers plan to add full-time, permanent employees in 2009, followed by 20 per cent of employers in transportation and utilities, 16 per cent in sales, 14 per cent in health care and 13 per cent in financial services. Retail employers are also planning to expand staffs at seven per cent followed by five per cent of hospitality employers.

COMPENSATION

With a large number of annual salary increases taking place in the first quarter, 56 per cent of employers expect to raise compensation levels in the next three months. Forty-three per cent estimate the average raise to amount to thre per cent or more while 12 per cent anticipate an average raise of five per cent or more.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Coming trends

- Increased Salaries: Even as companies explore ways to cut costs, employers still plan to increase salaries in the coming year.
- Flexible Work Arrangements: Close to one third (31 per cent) of employers say they plan to provide more flexible work arrangements in 2009.
- Green Jobs: Employers plan to become more environmentally aware in the new year. Thirteen per cent of employers say they plan to add "green jobs" in 2009, compared to one-in-ten who say they added them in 2008.
- Recruitment Tools: As recruitment budgets tighten, more employers are leveraging the Internet as a tool for finding potential employees.
- Retaining Retirees: A quarter of employers report concern over the loss of intellectual capital at their organizations through retirement.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Curtain Call
Don't miss Curtain Call, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. In the realm of death there are some interesting, lucrative and mysterious career opportunities; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

College & University 2009

Dr. Martin Evison says forensics can be a highly rewarding field when matched to the right type of person.

'CSI effect' breaks reality's speed limit

Curtain Call

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

CSI aficionados beware: Real studies and careers in forensics are nothing like the TV show.

Contrary to the breakneck pace of results gathering and analysis of crime scenes portrayed in shows like CSI: Miami and CSI: NY, real forensic science takes a great deal of patience and labour-intensive work.

Dr. Martin Evison, director of the University of Toronto's forensic science program, says the "CSI effect" — the instantaneous, logic-defying results portrayed on shows like CSI — can give many people the wrong idea of what forensics is really like.

"The first thing we tell students is that (forensic science) is not like CSI at all. A lot of it is very mechanistic, routine and laborious. However there is a reward at the end of the day — if you do it thoroughly and professionally, a forensic scientist can contribute to solving some quite serious crimes," Evison said.

The biggest exaggerations Evison says shows like CSI make are the speed at which analysis happens, the types of methods available and the exactness of the end results.

"It never happens at the touch of a button and a lot of what you see (on television) is science fantasy. The results can be rather more ambiguous than you can get from CSI," he said.

The "CSI effect" is so pronounced, Evison says, that it influenced the University of Toronto's own admission policies. Students cannot enter the forensic science program directly from high school — they have to apply formally to the program after at least one year of post-secondary studies. Evison says the process is necessary to make sure that only people with an interest in real forensics rather than flashy TV theatrics get in.

"We try to guarantee that we admit those kinds of students who are academically good and have the right level of interest and maturity," Evison said.

"The first thing we tell students is that (forensic science) is not like CSI at all."
Dr. Martin Evison
director of U of T's forensic science program

Evison says the "CSI effect" has also had a direct influence on the way evidence in presented in the courtroom.

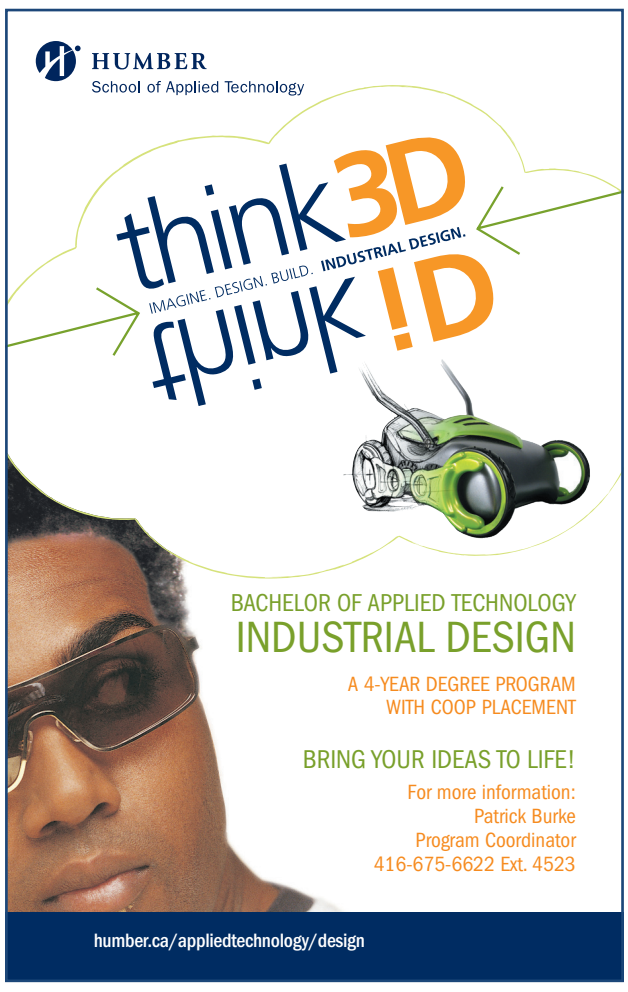
"If there is a phenomenon that typifies the way policing is changing it's a move away from eyewitness evidence and confessions and more towards physical evidence, which science is expected to provide," Evison said.

While U of T is the only major medical university in Canada to offer a forensic science program, several undergraduate universities offer similar programs, including the University of Windsor and Trent University in Ontario and St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia.

Evison says forensics can be a highly rewarding field when matched to the right type of person.

"Forensic science suits problem-solving and patient personalities, people who are willing to do the meticulous work until they find something that hopefully contributes to solving a crime. You're not going to be paid the same salary as the actors on CSI, but you will do socially useful work," Evison said.

For more of the Curtain Call exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work



Online tutoring options helps B.C. students succeed

Post Secondary

While we may be living in an era where so much in our world can appear to change at the speed of light, one thing does seem to be fairly constant — kids cramming for exams. Many grade 9-12 students returning to class after the winter break are immediately hunkering down to study for a number of tests in a variety of subject areas.

Lucky for those residing in B.C., they now have access to a free online tutoring service available through learnnowbc.ca, an educational portal developed and operated by the Virtual School Society (VSS).

"One of our priorities is to give students easy access to a selection of tools and resources that will help them to be successful."
Gordon Milne, VSS president

"One of our priorities is to give students easy access to a selection of tools and resources that will help them to be successful," said VSS president Gordon Milne. "Through LearnNowBC students can access course content, sample tests and tutoring. They can test themselves and receive an assessment, which lets them see which areas they need to focus their studying on. Our service can then provide them with customized study guides, which address their specific needs and it's all available at no cost to them."

Charged up for Math and Science, available 24 hours a day, gives students the opportunity to sample provincial exam questions and also offers streaming video explanations of answers.

StudyBUZZ, also available 24 hours a day, allows students to test themselves and assess what areas of study require more review and practice. Students can speak with B.C.-accredited teachers and tutors through chat rooms Sundays through Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Live workshops with teachers are also featured nightly, Monday to Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and followed by an online group discussion, including a question and answer period on the session.

VSS, which is funded through a grant from B.C.'s Ministry of Education, is hoping to expand this tutoring service to serve younger children, "We have a sense that there is a need for tutoring support in grades as low as three and four but we're really looking to hear from parents and teachers to substantiate this," said Milne.

In addition to supporting students, the portal provides information and resources to parents (e.g. cybersafety videos and workshops offering tips on keeping kids safe in an online environment) and training and tools to B.C. educators to enable them to support student learning.

NEWS CANADA

B.C. students can access free online tutoring at the LearnNowBC portal developed by the Virtual School Society.

Overseas box office record

Hollywood's six major studios say they broke overseas box office records in 2008, with an estimated $9.9 billion US in tickets sold. That's a four per cent increase from a year earlier, The Hollywood Reporter said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Locklear's plea

Heather Locklear has evaded DUI charges by pleading to a lesser offence. The actress entered a no contest plea to a misdemeanour reckless driving charge in California Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Marley & Me:** $24.1 million US
2. **Bedtime Stories:** $20.3 million
3. **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** $18.4 million
4. **Valkyrie:** $14 million
5. **Yes Man:** $13.9 million
6. **Seven Pounds:** $10 million
7. **The Tale of Despereaux:** $7 million
8. **Doubt:** $5 million
9. **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** $4.9 million
10. **Slumdog Millionaire:** $4.8 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travolta 'heartbroken'

Actor thanks people for their support after death of son in Bahamas

John Travolta's 16-year-old son was "spectacularly supervised" before he was found collapsed at the family's vacation home on Grand Bahama, a lawyer for the actor said yesterday.

Travolta himself, in his first public statement since Jett's death, thanked people for their support and said he and his wife were "heartbroken that our time with him was so brief."

Police Superintendent Basil Rahming has said a caretaker found Jett Travolta unconscious in a bathroom late Friday morning before he was pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital.

The youth was last seen entering the bathroom on Thursday, according to Rahming's police statement.

But Travolta lawyer Michael McDermott said he doesn't believe that Jett was in the bathroom for a substantial amount of time.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Actor John Travolta broke his silence yesterday over the death of his son Jett.

"The police left the impression that the boy was unsupervised. No. There were two nannies with him for the entire evening," McDermott told The Associated Press. "They made it seem like he was sent to the condo and nobody checked in on him until the next morning."

"(Jett) was spectacularly supervised," said McDermott, who said he has not had the chance to talk to the two nannies himself.

McDermott said he had no knowledge of Jett's medical history but "understood he had a history of seizures."

The Bahamas' health minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, has said that a second, U.S.-certified pathologist would fly in today to assist with the teenager's autopsy.

In a statement posted yesterday on Travolta's website, the couple said Jett was the "most wonderful son that two parents could ever ask for and lit up the lives of everyone he encountered."

"We will cherish the time we had with him for the rest of our lives," they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We will cherish the time we had with him."
Travolta statement

For the latest on this story, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

Will Smith voted top money-making movie star

No name on the marquee was more pleasing to theatre owners in 2008 than Will Smith, according to a survey of movie exhibitors.

Smith, star of Hancock and Seven Pounds, was voted the star who generated the most box office revenue for theatres in an annual survey by Quigley Publishing Co.

Smith is only the second black actor to be chosen in the Quigley poll, which since 1932 has asked movie exhibitors to vote on the 10 stars who brought in the most business. Sidney Poitier topped the poll in 1968.

Smith's superhero summer blockbuster, Hancock, grossed $228 million US. Seven Pounds, currently in theatres, has pulled in a somewhat lacklustre $39 million in two weeks.

Downey Jr.

Hathaway

Following Smith, in order, were Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man, Tropic Thunder), Christian Bale (The Dark Knight), Shia LaBeouf (Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull) and LaBeouf's Indiana Jones co-star Harrison Ford.

The top 10 were rounded out by Adam Sandler, Reese Witherspoon, George Clooney, Angelina Jolie and Daniel Craig.

Last year's winner, Johnny Depp, who didn't have a film released this year, didn't make this year's poll, nor did seven-time winner Tom Cruise.

Anne Hathaway (Rachel Getting Married) was voted the top "star of tomorrow" along with Chris Pine of Bottle Shock.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Will Smith

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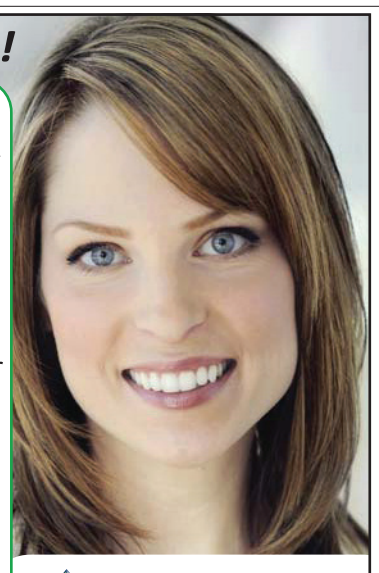

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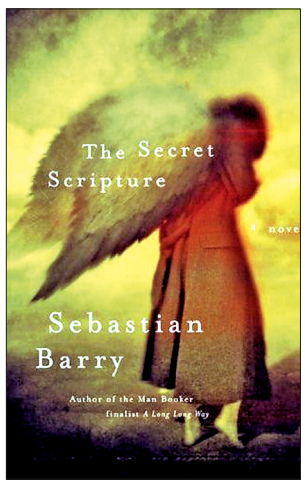
Bon Jovi lends his voice
The final note of Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign may be sung by Jon Bon Jovi. The musician is performing at a fundraiser for the former candidate as she tries to close out her campaign debt, which stood at $6.3 million US as of last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two voices in Scripture



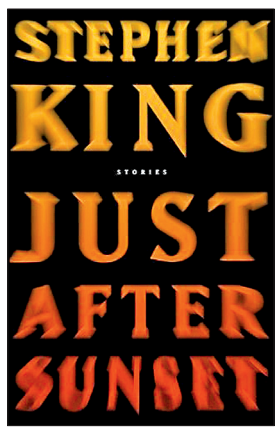
The Secret **Scripture**

Author: Sebastian Barry
Publisher: Viking
Price: $27.50 (Hardcover)

Book**Picks**

Short-listed for the 2008 Man Booker Prize, The Secret Scripture sees acclaimed Irish author Sebastian Barry unfurl a psychological tale of family tragedy propelled by Irish civil war history. Mental patient Roseanne McNulty, 100, tells one half of the dual-first person narrative, recounting her own blighted upbringing and her cemetery worker father's seemingly unlikely involvement in the political battles of early 20th century Ireland. Dr. Grene, Roseanne's present psychiatrist, relays the other half of the story through his discovery of historical documents that explain why she was sent to the institution and that just may debunk her puzzling past.

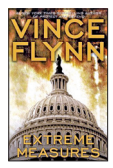
BOOK REVIEWS:
BRIAN COULTON/
FOR METRO CANADA



Just After **Sunset**

Author: Stephen King
Publisher: Scribner
Price: $32.00 (Hardcover)

Noted horror author Stephen King compiles his fifth collection of short stories in Just After Sunset. Thirteen stories, most previously published in various periodicals from Playboy to The New Yorker, comprise King's latest work that thrills and chills with the oft-common theme of human impermanence. From the ghostly mask covering a man's quest to find his fiancée in Willa through the story of a hit man hired to waste an unusual feline in The Cat From Hell to an OCD-ridden patient that causes his psychiatrist to commit suicide in N., Just After Sunset conveys King's usual unnerving literary mark.



Extreme **Measures**

Author: Vince Flynn
Publisher: Atria Books
Price: $29.99 (Hardcover)

The latest thrilling release in Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp series is Extreme Measures. The undercover agent of the CIA's counterterrorism unit takes a back seat in this tome, however, making way for a new heroic protagonist, Mike Nash. Nash has worked closely with Rapp before and is more than qualified to continue to fight terrorists in the Middle East. Nash's secrecy about his work and deprivation of honour has all been in the name of serving his country. But in Extreme Measures, he discovers the nation he's loyally served may not be returning the favour.

Waltz wins top critics award

BEST PICTURE The National Society of Film Critics has chosen Waltz With Bashir as the best picture of 2008.

The group also named Sean Penn as best actor for his performance in the biopic Milk and Sally Hawkins as best actress for her turn in the comedy Happy-Go-Lucky.

Waltz With Bashir is an intense animated documentary about Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. It follows Israeli director Ari Folman's efforts to recover his own lost memories about a massacre during the war.

Happy-Go-Lucky director Mike Leigh won both best director and best screenplay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In **brief**

MUSIC It looks like the old Dead are gettin' on. Surviving members of the Grateful Dead say they'll regroup for a 19-city tour, their first since 2004, beginning April 12 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

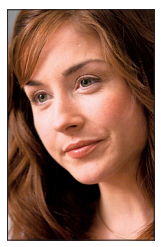
Being Erica means going back in time

If only she knew then what she knows now, things could have turned out so differently.

So begins the quirky time-travelling series Being Erica, an hour-long CBC dramedy that follows the neverending growing pains of thirty-something underachiever Erica Strange. Fired from her mediocre job, dumped by her Lavalife boyfriend and berated by her family for her string of failures, Erica traces her woes to mistakes made in her past.

She's offered a second chance to get things right when her mysterious new therapist actually sends her back in time to relive the moments she regrets most.

"I'm hoping that people identify with her because I think anyone, regardless of age, sex, race, class, gender, has regrets. I think there are times in everyone's life where they wish that they could go back and have a do-over," says the star Erin Karpluk.


Erin Karpluk

A great deal of the show's charm is the hearty embrace of each year that's portrayed, says Karpluk, who's forced to don outrageouly dated hairstyles and fashions each week. The CBC series kicks off tonight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sam Shepard arrested

Sam Shepard, the actor and playwright, was arrested early Saturday in Normal, Ill., on preliminary charges of speeding and drunken driving. Police say a breath test indicated his blood alcohol level was double the legal limit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GlobalStyle
Kenya Hunt

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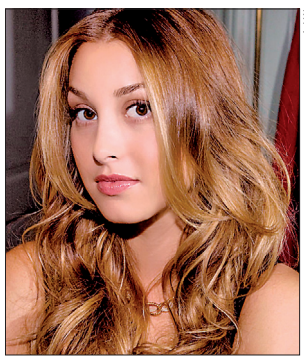
DOWN FROM THE HILLS: MTV's "reality" TV sensation The Hills is like baseball to me — fun to read about, fascinating in theory, but utterly unwatchable.

I've had a fair bit of sport making fun of the show since it debuted over two and a half years ago, but I've been forced to admit there's something about it that keeps me coming back to the phenomenon whenever I read another feature on the show or its largely interchangeable "stars."

And the show keeps rolling on, a juggernaut in spite of my agonized curiosity. It's the "No. 1 cable program among the 12-to-34-year-old demographic," according to a recent New York Magazine piece on The City, the Hills spin-off currently filming in New York City which promotes one Whitney Port from secondary character to heroine.

The New York piece allows itself the customary moment of confusion about its reality credentials, opening on a Manhattan street corner outside a club where Port is about to show up to hang out with her "friends."

Four cameras are tasked with documenting her arrival, and bystanders have been coached by the show's producers to look casual. In the club, what transpires hardly seems the stuff of high drama: "The girls drink, the boys drink, the girls giggle, the boys giggle — then, eventually, there's a flurry of air-kisses and everyone leaves.



MTV

Whitney Port, a secondary character on The Hills, now stars on The City.

No tears, no explosive catfights, no misty epiphanies about frayed friendships, not even the vacant pouts that serve as the main form of communication on The Hills. The magic happens, as anyone who's watched the show knows, in the editing suite.

A Hills spin-off was increasingly essential for MTV, apparently, since it was becoming harder to edit the product endorsements, paid nightclub appearances and speaking engagements out of Hills star Lauren Conrad's life, and Port's life was still roughly "real" enough to make her a decent subject — at least for now.

Still, Port already has a clothing line to push, and the pretty young people populating The City don't bother pretending that they aren't without ambitions. And within the social circles that populate the show, "Everyone I know suddenly wants to get on that show, or have their own show, or pretend to have a show in order to get on another show," said Sean Glass, an aspiring filmmaker who recently sold his own Hills/City-like "reality" show to ABC.

Olivia Palermo turned down a part on Glass' show when offered a role on The City, and told MTV's producers that she wanted to be on TV "because I want to be a brand." Who, I ask, wouldn't be fascinated by this?

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/5/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		To Build a Nation		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	*Mr. & Mrs. Smith* ★★ (2005, Action) Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn.						News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Being Erica "Dr. Tom"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N)				True Beauty (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup	How I Met	Engagement	Worst Week	Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Le Printemps des Voyageurs		Dans le secret des pierres		*Les Destinées sentimentales* ★★ (2000, Drame) Emmanuelle Béart.				
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Black Bearded
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Superstars of Dance (N)				Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N)				True Beauty (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Paris Hilton's My New BFF (N)		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Foot. Pregame	(8:15) College Football Tostitos Fiesta Bowl -- Ohio State vs. Texas. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		The Story of India (N)		The Story of India (N)		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Addicted to Plastic (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				Scam of the Century: Madoff		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Darts World Premier League.				Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	Pregame	Junior Hockey: IIHF World Championship Gold Medal -- Teams TBA					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It (N)		Save Us-House	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens		MuchNews	The NewMusic	MuchVibe
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention "Ryan"		Intervention "John C."		Intervention		Intervention
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Where You At	Back In	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget
	575	583	38	CMT	All About (N)	All About	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Womn-Country
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees	House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Moments in Motion		Ballet Victoria, A Leap of Faith		Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover (N)		Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Jeopardy"		Battle 360		Pearl Harbor: Who Fired First		NCIS "Jeopardy"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Great Canadian Laugh-Off		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Ambrose Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Crimson Tide* ★★★ (1995, Suspense) Denzel Washington, Gene Hackman.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*How Stella Got Her Groove Back* ★★ (1998), Taye Diggs				Top 25 Heartaches		Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Catch-22"		Lost "D.O.C."		The Dresden Files		Ghost Hunters		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs (N)	Bromance (N)		The City	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Food Detective	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen (N)		Chef School
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		The Nature of Things		Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Relative Madness (N)		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Céline: les coulisses de Las Vegas (HDTV) (N)			Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) *O* (2001, Drame)	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Lost in Austen		The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	Sanctuary "Revelations"		Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	Californication	Californication	Californication	Californication
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:15) *Atanarjuat the Fast Runner* (2001, Adventure)				*American History X* ★★★ (1998, Drama) Edward Norton.				*Buster's Bed.*

critics' corner

Little Mosque on the Prairie
It's like having two dates for the prom, with the added baggage of family. In this new episode, Sarah is involved in a charity marathon that involves two-person teams. When both Yasir and Rayyan want to be her teammates, she has a tough choice to make in "Baber Is From Mars, Vegans Are From Vegus." 8 PM on CBC

The Big Bang Theory
The inflated ego tends to distort the world around you and give you the feeling you can take on the world. Raj, newly famous because of a magazine article, gets a big head and makes a disastrous play for Leonard's crush, Penny. 8 PM on CTV CBS

CSI: Miami
In this episode, Horatio and his team are on the case when a body is discovered in a sinkhole. This is about more than one death, though, as their investigation leads them to a robbery and a big secret involving the target of the theft. John Schneider guest stars in "Tunnel Vision." 10 PM on CTV CBS

Relative unknown to star as Dr. Who

TELEVISION The BBC says little-known actor Matt Smith will take over the title role in the long-running science fiction series Doctor Who. The 26-year-old will be the 11th actor to star in one of Britain's most popular TV shows — and the youngest. Smith has appeared on the London stage and starred in the political TV drama Party Animals, but is still a relative unknown. The new role will make him a major star in Britain, where Doctor Who regularly draws 10 million viewers an episode.

Rose obit mix-up besets filmmaker

FILM Filmmaker George Butler wants his friends to know he's alive, despite a premature obituary on The Charlie Rose Show. During Rose's annual New Year's Eve tribute on PBS to notable figures who died during the year, he included Butler, whose 1977 film Pumping Iron featured a then-unknown bodybuilder named Arnold Schwarzenegger. The PBS show confused him with another George Butler, a longtime jazz record executive, who died April 9. Rose has retracted the error.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

La Toya to appear in U.K.'s Big Brother
Michael Jackson's sister La Toya and Gangsta Paradise rapper Coolio are among the stars taking part in the U.K. TV series Celebrity Big Brother. **ANANOVA.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Lohan, Ronson house hunting?

COUPLE Lindsay Lohan and her DJ partner Samantha Ronson have been house hunting in the glitzy United Arab Emirates paradise of Dubai in a bid to beat the cameras, female-first.co.uk is reporting.

The pair reportedly fell in love with glamorous Palm Island resort after Ronson performed at the nearby luxurious Atlantis Hotel last year, according to the Daily Mirror.

And the Mean Girls star is keen to capitalize on a lack of paparazzi in the Middle-Eastern state by snapping up a lavish multi-million dollar pad.

A source tells the publication, "Lindsay and Sam loved the tacky glitziness of Dubai. There is so much money and opulence out there it really impressed Lindsay — she can be quite materialistic like that. Despite her fair skin, Lindsay loves the beach and sunshine.

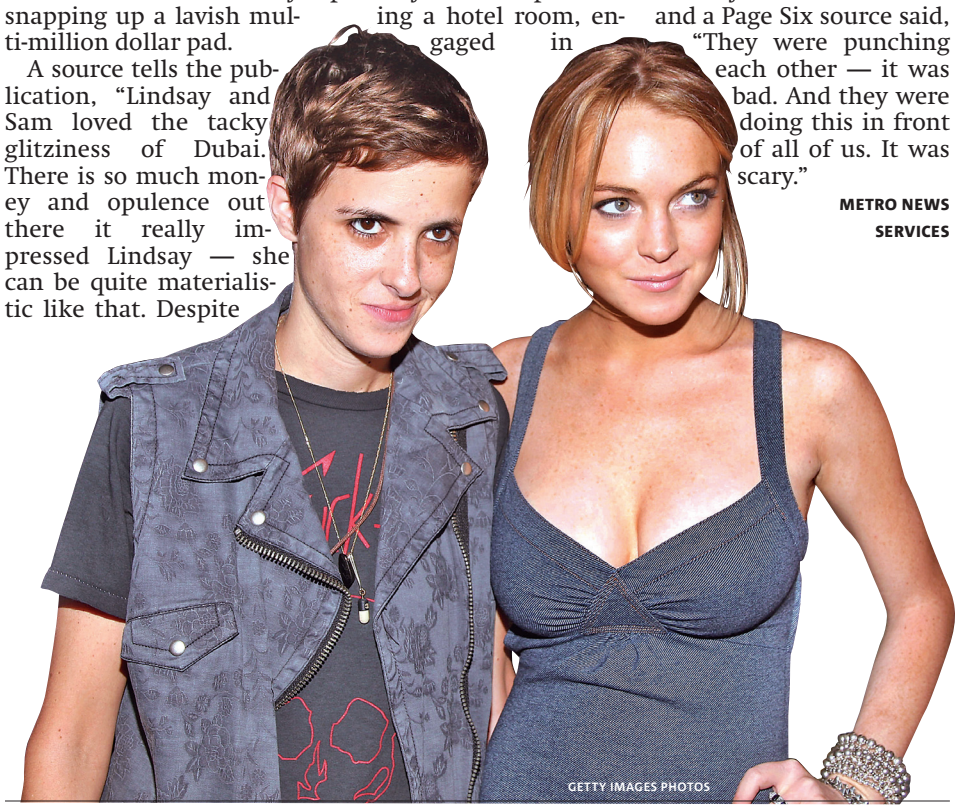
"And with the property market over there probably the only place where there still seems to be a boom, she thinks it will be a wise investment," the source added. "There isn't as much paparazzi either — although that's sure to change once Lindsay and Sam become regulars on the scene."

Meanwhile, eonline.com is reporting it wasn't such a happy new year for Lohan and Ronson, who reportedly ended up trashing a hotel room, engaged in fisticuffs and shouting at each other in a dirty alley.

The website quotes a report by the New York Post's Page Six column that says the duo's new year got started with an argument while Lohan and Ronson were partying with family at Set in Miami.

The gossip column says further discussions erupted later at their hotel room where several sources heard crashing and screaming. The fight reportedly spilled into the hallway at about 11 a.m., and a Page Six source said, "They were punching each other — it was bad. And they were doing this in front of all of us. It was scary."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Harris wants to see Jackman on show

CAREER Samantha Harris has an idea of who she wants to see on Dancing with the Stars: People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive.

"Hugh Jackman, hands down," the co-host of the show said, according to people.com

The website says Harris would expect the Wolverine actor, who has also starred on Broadway, to do well if he appearing on Dancing.

"He's a song and dance man. He's a Broadway guy," she told People in Las Vegas before celebrating her birthday at Blush Nightclub. "He's got charisma and you know he can move."

Harris said she's even suggested to Jackman that he do the show. How did the upcoming Oscars host respond? "He actually twirled and dipped me. I was so excited," she said. "That made my year."

Dancing's eighth season begins in March, with a cast announcement coming within the next several weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No on-set tension, says Eva

RUMOUR Actress Eva Longoria Parker has laughed off persistent rumours of tensions on the Desperate Housewives set, insisting cast members are all "dear friends" to her, female-first.co.uk reports.

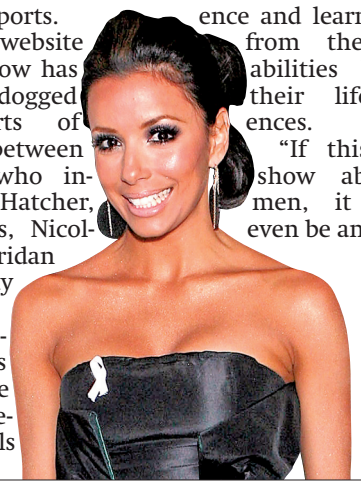
The gossip website notes the show has long been dogged with reports of fighting between the stars, who include Teri Hatcher, Marcia Cross, Nicollette Sheridan and Felicity Huffman.

But Longoria Parker has dismissed the rumours, because she feels "gifted" to be onset with the other actresses.

She tells Glamour magazine, "The women on the show are dear friends of mine. It's been such a gift for me to be in their presence and learn not only from their acting abilities but from their life experiences.

"If this were a show about four men, it wouldn't even be an issue."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kate credits body to Pilates workout

HEALTH Kate Winslet is one hot mama, but she doesn't get that fabulous bod by hitting the gym, starmagazine.com reports.

The mother-of-two, who strips down for her new film Revolutionary Road, says her hot body is a result of Pilates DVDs, according to the website.

"I am pretty average," the actress, who is married to her Revolutionary director Sam Mendes, tells UK's Elle. "I have cellulite, I don't go to the gym because I don't have time but I do Pilates work out DVDs for 20 minutes or more everyday at home."

As for her diet, she says she eats sensibly and doesn't "stuff down chocolate biscuits," she tells the magazine in its February edition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Smirnoff really rings in New Year

MARRIAGE Karina Smirnoff and Maksim Chmerkovskiy are looking to perfect their pas de deux, eonline.com reports.

The website says the Dancing With the Stars pros took the whole ringing in the New Year literally, getting engaged just before the calendar flipped to Jan. 1, a source close to the couple confirmed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pitt loves changing diapers

FAMILY Brad Pitt loves changing nappies, female-first.co.uk reports.

The star — who is raising six children with partner Angelina Jolie — insists he is very skilled at dealing with soiled diapers.

The website says Pitt — who currently has his hands full with six-month-old twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline — said, "I'm fairly good with a nappy and all that. You know the secret of a good nappy-change? You've got to do it quick.

"There's something about the air contact that makes them want to go again, you've got to be speedy. I must say, I'm pretty quick — but I've had a lot of practice."

The gossip website adds that Jolie was reportedly warned recently not to have another child.

The 33-year-old actress — whose other biological child with Brad is two-year-old daughter Shiloh — has allegedly been told it could damage her health if she falls pregnant again.

A source reportedly told the website that, "(Jolie's) previous pregnancies ended with emergency caesarean sections. She's been told that, at the least, she should not get pregnant for a year after her last delivery, and it would be safer if she did not get pregnant again, ever."

METRO NEWS SERVIECS

Perry and McCoy call it quits

RELATIONSHIP Singers Katy Perry and Travis McCoy have ended their relationship, people.com is reporting.

The I Kissed a Girl singer, 24, and the Gym Class Heroes frontman, 27, vacationed together in Mexico over the holidays, but they split shortly before the New Year, a source tells the magazine.

"It's a hardship, but she's regrouping," a source told Celebuzz, which first reported the split. McCoy took to his FriendsOrEnemies.com blog on Dec. 31, where he posted lyrics to hip-hop group Main Source's breakup song Looking at the Front Door.

The same day, Perry performed at the Gridlock New Year's Eve party on the Paramount lot. "She hung out with her friends all night. She was in a great mood," people.com reports a partygoer as saying. "Nothing seemed out of the ordinary."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rutherford's marriage ends

DIVORCE Pregnant Gossip Girl actress Kelly Rutherford and her husband of two years, German entrepreneur Daniel Giersch, are calling it quits.

Rutherford, 40, who is three months pregnant, filed for divorce on Dec. 30, citing "irreconcilable differences," according to papers obtained by People.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today: Mainly sunny -4°/ -10°
Tuesday: Partly cloudy -3° / -5°
Wednesday: Light snow 70% 0°/ -6°

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Take Five

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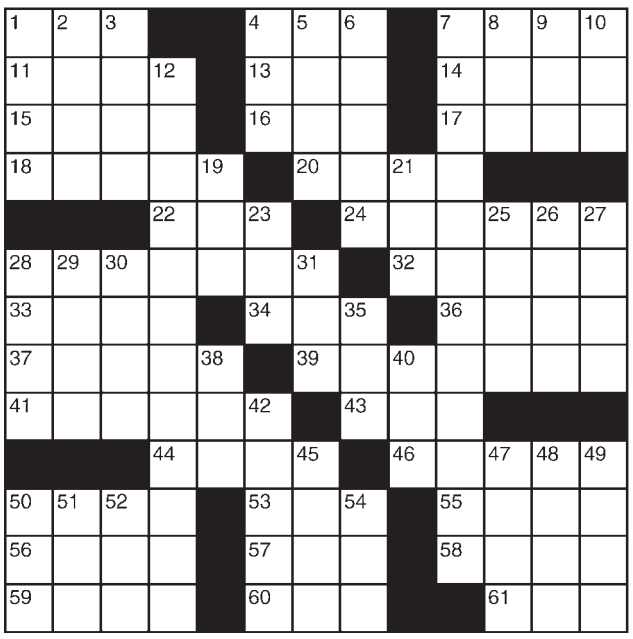


Crossword across

1 "— gets too hungry ..."
4 Existed
7 Go sightseeing
11 Baby bovine
13 Frozen over
14 With competence
15 Approximately
16 Can metal
17 High-flying toy
18 Prepare to drive
20 Medicinal measurement
22 Ply oars
24 Online biz
28 Talk and talk and talk
32 Push hard
33 Wooden strip
34 Pooch
36 Divisible by two
37 Unfriendly
39 Novices on the golf course
41 High hit
43 X-ray descendant
44 San — Capistrano
46 Subsequently
50 Boyfriend
53 Gear tooth
55 Siamese
56 Badder than bad
57 Coloration
58 Towel designation
59 Change
60 Explosive letters
61 Wapiti

Crossword down

1 Glaswegian, e.g.
2 Tortoise's opponent
3 Otherwise
4 Humour
5 Alkali neutralizer
6 Church council
7 Refuse to answer
8 Kimono sash
9 Last (Abbr.)
10 "The Catcher in the —"
12 Summer holiday
19 Cauldron
21 "Mayday!"
23 Marry
25 Inlet
26 Exceeding
27 Clothing store department
28 Applaud
29 Head light?
30 On
31 Scepter
35 Wrigley product
38 Winter ailment
40 Monk's address
42 Luxury craft
45 It may be a proper subject
47 Quaker's pronoun
48 "My Name Is —"
49 Put in jeopardy
50 Ms. Sills, to pals
51 Peron or Gabor
52 Melody
54 Obtain

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8		6		5	4			1
	7		2					6
	3		9				4	
6							2	
		2	5		7	8		
	4							3
	8				6		5	
9					2		3	
2			3	1		9		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

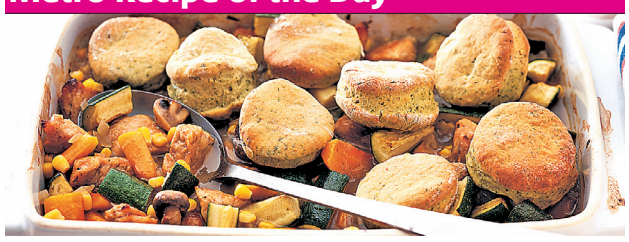
H	A	U	L	S	■	U	P	S	■	O	P	S		
U	N	T	I	L	■	N	U	T	■	L	I	T		
R	A	I	S	A	■	S	T	Y	L	I	Z	E		
■	■	L	A	N	C	E	T	■	O	O	Z	E		
F	B	I	■	G	O	A	■	N	A	S	A	L		
L	A	Z	E	■	A	L	O	O	F	■	■	■		
U	S	E	N	E	T	■	S	W	E	R	V	E		
■	■	■	A	L	I	B	I	■	R	E	E	K		
G	R	I	M	M	■	R	E	D	■	A	T	E		
R	A	V	E	■	C	E	R	E	A	L	■	■		
I	D	O	L	I	Z	E	■	E	V	I	C	T		
S	I	R	■	P	A	Z	■	D	O	Z	E	N		
T	O	Y	■	O	R	E	■	S	W	E	E	T		

8	1	7	6	5	9	3	4	2
9	2	4	7	8	3	6	5	1
3	5	6	1	4	2	8	9	7
2	9	1	8	3	5	7	6	4
5	6	3	4	2	7	9	1	8
7	4	8	9	6	1	2	3	5
6	3	2	5	7	4	1	8	9
1	8	5	2	9	6	4	7	3
4	7	9	3	1	8	5	2	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chicken cobbler

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) chicken, diced
2 tbsp (25 ml) plain flour
1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) olive oil
2 onions, finely chopped
2 cups (500 ml) dry alcoholic cider
1 bay leaf
4 carrots, peeled
1/4 cup (50 ml) button mushrooms, halved
3 zucchini, trimmed
2/3 cup (150 ml) frozen corn kernels

COBBLER TOPPING:

1 1/4 cups (175 g) self-raising flour
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh parsley
1 tbsp (15 ml) snipped fresh chives
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh oregano
1 oz (30 g) unsalted butter, chilled and diced
7 tbsp (100 ml) low-fat milk

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Toss chicken in flour to coat. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in frying pan. Add chicken and fry over a medium heat, stirring, about 3 minutes. Stir in remaining oil and onions, reduce heat and cook 5 minutes, until onions are golden.
2. Stir in cider and bay leaf, and boil. Quarter carrots lengthwise, then chop into 3/4-inch (2-cm) chunks and add to pan with mushrooms. Reduce heat. Simmer gently for 20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, cut zucchini into quarters lengthwise, then cut across into chunks, about the size of the carrots. Mix with corn and set aside.
4. To make the cobbler topping, combine flour, herbs and a little seasoning in bowl. Using your fingertips, rub in butter until the mixture looks like fine crumbs, then stir in milk until ingredients come together to make a soft dough. Turn onto floured surface and press with floured fingers to 1/2 inch (1 cm) thick. Using a floured 2 1/2-inch (6-cm) round cookie cutter, cut out eight rounds, re-using trimmings.
5. Stir zucchini and corn into chicken mixture and season. Transfer to ovenproof dish and arrange "cobblers" on top. Cook uncovered, for 20 minutes until topping is golden. Serve hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your friends want you to pretend to be happier. You'll come up with an idiot-proof idea. A glum departure turns out to be for the best.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Extreme childishness should be treated patiently. An insensitive bully will be despised. A blocked account has some intriguing consequences.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't hurt anyone's feelings with disconcerting actions. An indifferent man has recognition issues. Be helpful to someone who is still idealistic.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A loyal friend sheds tears. Try to react to frantic activity with equanimity. You'll wait for a man to change his mind.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A cynic puts a damper on things. A peer isn't allowed to make contact. A marriage is discussed by a deserter.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A slothful manner can't be put right. Be cool when listening to a blabbing creature. Limiting a debate will make others uneasy.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Your clear thinking has dramatic results. Reveal the truth despite the chaos it causes. Be humble when your good deeds are revealed.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will frustrate an opponent. An important caller could change everything. Insensitive joking makes you speechless.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A friend confesses about a scam. Set aside time for overdue accounts. A busybody's hypocrisy will be apparent.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Your ability to treasure good times is still strong. Relief comes in the form of comical responses. A competitor is grateful for your honesty.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A speedy solution will have a peculiar flaw. Your steadiness is valued in a crisis. You won't easily ignore a dieting problem.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Don't make any hasty decisions. A man's cautious behaviour will affect your plans. Don't be melodramatic if someone fools around.

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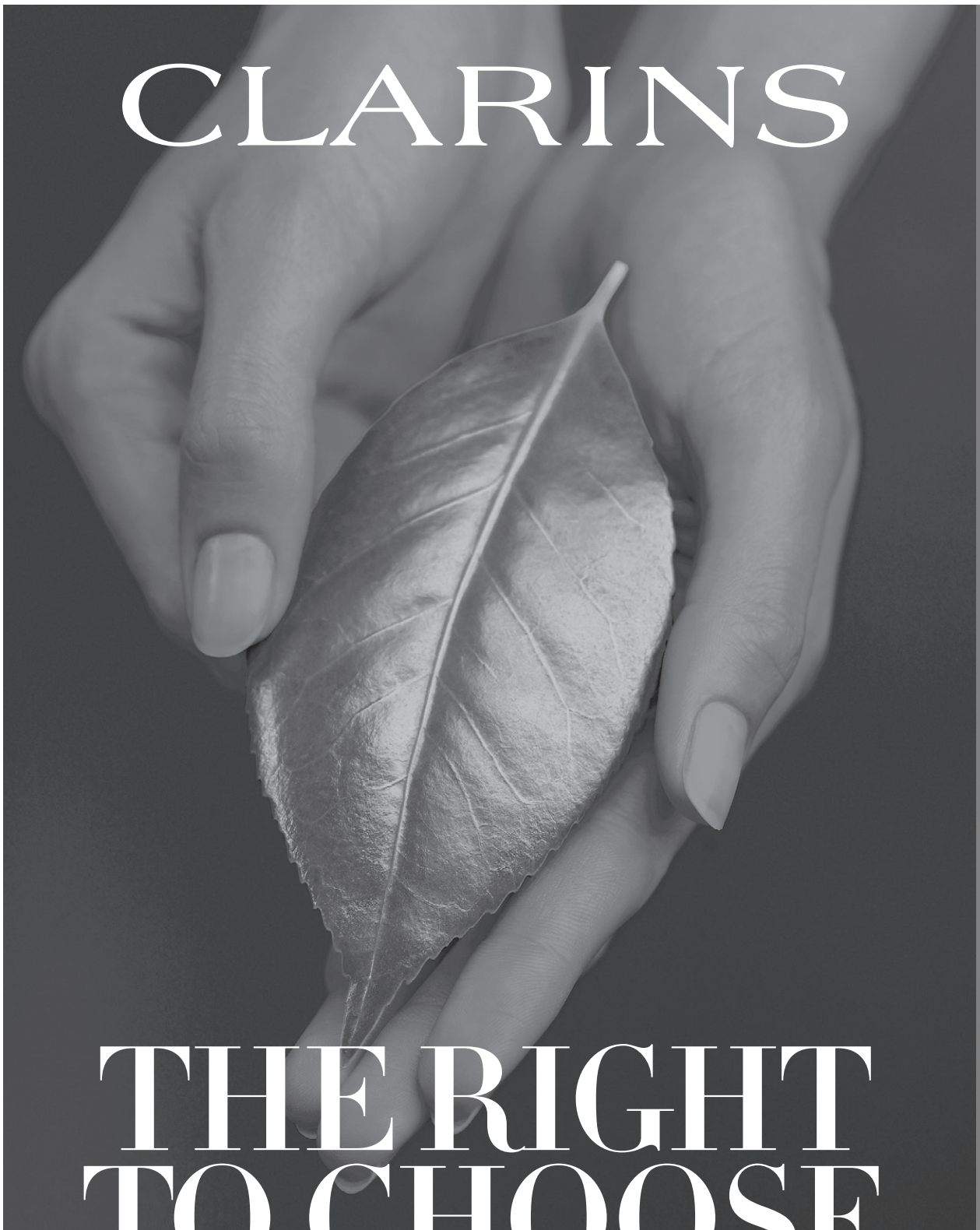

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*Value based on Sears reg. price per mL/g.

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